

Angela O'Shea

From: Honor Dunphy
Sent: Thursday 4 February 2021 15:24
To: Angela O'Shea
Subject: FW: Mother and Baby Homes.
Attachments: Women's Committee letter to Minister O'Gorman.pdf; Womens Committee Letter to Minister O'Brien.pdf

Angela,
Correspondence for March Plenary meeting.
Honor

From: Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh <Deirdre.NiRaghallaigh@dublincity.ie>
Sent: 04 February 2021 14:32
To: 'Robert Collins' <Robert.Collins@meathcoco.ie>; Anne Lee <alee@longfordcoco.ie>; Siofra Kilcullen <skilcullen@MayoCoCo.ie>; ebrophy@carlowcoco.ie; lmcgavigan@cavancoco.ie; areynolds@clarecoco.ie; alma_murnane@corkcity.ie; mairead.lucey@corkcoco.ie; J peoples <jpeoples@donegalcoco.ie>; learls@dlrcoco.ie; Gary.McMahon@galwaycity.ie; mowens@galwaycoco.ie; padraig.corkery@kerrycoco.ie; cogrady@kildarecoco.ie; kkeane@kildarecoco.ie; Anne Maria Walsh <annemaria.walsh@kilkennycoco.ie>; Irene Delaney <idelaney@laoiscoco.ie>; Kieran Brett <kbrett@leitrimcoco.ie>; james.clune@limerick.ie; Grainne Tuomey <Grainne.Tuomey@louthcoco.ie>; cthornton@monaghancoco.ie; mflynn@offalycoco.ie; pbohan@roscommoncoco.ie; Kevin Colreavy <kcolreav@sligococo.ie>; churson@sdblincoco.ie; mreilly@sdblincoco.ie; Walsh, Ger <ger.walsh@tipperarycoco.ie>; Honor Dunphy <hdunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie>; brian.buckley@fingal.ie; Anne Galvin <anne.galvin@westmeathcoco.ie>; Mark Keaveney <Mark.Keaveney@westmeathcoco.ie>; Adrienne Larkin <Adrienne.Larkin@wexfordcoco.ie>; Lorraine Gallagher <lgallagher@wicklowcoco.ie>
Cc: Ruth Dowling <ruth.dowling@dublincity.ie>
Subject: RE: Mother and Baby Homes.

Dear Meeting Administrators

I was asked by Cllr Darcy Lonergan, Chair of the Dublin City Council Women's Committee to circulate this letter for the attention of your Cathaoirligh and Members. It relates to the issue of Maternity Leave for Councillors and is copies of correspondence to the relevant Ministers.

I would be grateful if you could bring it to the attention of your Members.

Regards

Deirdre Ní Raghallaigh

Senior Executive Officer / *Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach*
T. 01 222 6738 M: 0868150582 E. Deirdre.niraghallaigh@dublincity.ie

Chief Executive's Office, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8. D08 RF3F
Oifig an Phríomhfeidhmeannaigh, Oifig na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8 D08 RF3F

Smaoinigh ar an timpeallacht sula ndéanann tú an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil. Please consider the Environment before printing this mail.

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth,
Block 1, Miesian Plaza,
50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street,
February 4th 2021

Dear Minister O’Gorman,

The Dublin City Council Women’s Committee, a cross party committee composed of 26 of the 29 female Councillors on Dublin City Council is writing to implore your department to make appropriate legal provisions to allow sitting Councillors to avail of Maternity Leave.

Currently there is no mechanism which allows women Councillors to take maternity leave whilst serving on the Council. We find this to be unjust and discriminatory. The Employment Equality Acts 1998 - 2015 prohibits discrimination in employment related settings, which includes ‘family status’. Discrimination is referred to as ‘less favourable treatment’ and can be either direct or indirect. We have provided quotes from Councillors who had given birth whilst serving on the council which highlight how unjust and discriminatory the current situation is. Additionally, the absence of maternity leave is a proven barrier to participation for women entering politics and a contributing factor for the relative lack of women putting themselves forward for political office. This leads to government structures that are fundamentally unrepresentative of the general population of Ireland.

We deem Section 18 (4 (b) within the current Local Government Act 2001 to be an appropriate basis upon which leave for maternity reasons could be provided for. It states that a Councillor may be absent for more than 6 months from meeting for a reason "in good faith" where this "is accepted by the local authority and approved by resolution under this paragraph before the end of the relevant period, in which case the period shall stand extended to 12 months from the relevant date".

In addition, we concur with the Moorhead Report recommendation which states: ‘Councillors who wish to take parental leave should be able to notify the elected council one month in advance, rather than be obliged to seek the council’s approval to take time away from their role’ and would ask for clarity on how this is likely to be implemented.

Furthermore, the previous ‘National Strategy for Women and Girls’ sought to implement measures to support women in local government. Access to maternity leave would be a significant step in achieving this objective and should be included in the new strategy.

Minister, we are calling on you to put in place the appropriate legislation and/or directive to rectify this unjust anomaly for Councillor, and to ensure that this action required is expedited in recognition of the seriousness of this inequity. We are available to engage with you and your department and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely



Darcy Lonergan, Chair of the Women’s Committee

Quotes of councillors who have been pregnant whilst serving on Dublin City Council

"I took 2 weeks off after I had my baby and came back to my council role, I took him to meetings with me when I could manage. Child care wasn't an issue. I had family members willing to help but I wanted him with me so I could feed him and bond with him. I felt pressured to come back to work because there was at the time still no set maternity leave for cllrs. I worked in other jobs whilst having my two other boys and took the full entitlement to maternity leave for both births. Rushing back to my council role didn't help me and I suffered a bout of postpartum depression. I believe then and I believe now that we need full maternity leave entitlements. I was part of a group of cross party Cllr who campaigned for a parenting room in city hall. We were successful in getting this room and I was delighted to be able to use it on one or two occasions after I had Bródy" - **Cllr. Janice Boylan**

"After the birth of each my kids, I was back in the Council Chamber 2 weeks later. When I think back I have no idea how I did that after the first one as I had been back in hospital with complications and had only been back out a few days. I was breastfeeding so I had to leave him at home and then run back home straight after the important votes were cast. With no maternity leave, and no remote or proxy voting, as a new mother you are completely compromised in trying to keep up your role as Councillor and balance motherhood. You also don't have proper child care established when they are really small, and there are no longer spaces available for Councillors in the Dublin City Council creche, a facility that was originally set up for the elected representatives and used to provide a drop in service, even for the late night meetings. This changed when there were less women in the Chamber and the demand dropped. This is why we had to fight to change the rules to allow us to bring babies to Council meetings and to establish a parenting room in City Hall. It was surprising how many other Cllrs resisted it, but we got there in the end. It made it so much easier having my second child being able to bring him with me as a small baby, but we still need proper maternity leave. We are entitled to 6 months sick leave but when you aren't sick it feels wrong to take it. But it's too much to expect women to go back to work weeks after giving birth" - **Cllr Claire Byrne**

"Tom was born 13 days after the council election in 2019, on the day of the vote to elect a new Lord Mayor I was in the Rotunda being admitted for monitoring, I missed the vote because there was no facility for a proxy vote or even online voting at the time, which was awkward as my vote was needed as part of the Dublin Agreement and people outside my group weren't sure why I hadn't turned up!" - **Cllr Jane Horgan Jones**

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House
Dublin, D01 W6X0
February 4th 2021

Dear Minister O'Brien

The Dublin City Council Women's Committee, a cross party committee composed of 26 of the 29 female Councillors on Dublin City Council is writing to implore your department to make appropriate legal provisions to allow sitting Councillors to avail of Maternity Leave.

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In addition, we concur with the Moorhead Report recommendation which states: 'Councillors who wish to take parental leave should be able to notify the elected council one month in advance, rather than be obliged to seek the council's approval to take time away from their role' and would ask for clarity how this is likely to be implemented.

Minister, we are calling on you to put in place the appropriate legislation and/or directive to rectify this unjust anomaly for Councillors, and to ensure that this action required is expedited in recognition of the seriousness of this inequity. We are available to engage with you and your department and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely



Darcy Lonergan, Chair of the Women's Committee

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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae
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Áras an Chontae
Port Laoise
Contae Laoise
R32 EHP9

Laois County Council
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Portlaoise
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Mr. Darragh O' Brien,
Minister for Housing, Planning,
& Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

March 1st 2021

Dear Minister O' Brien,

At the February meeting of Laois County Council held on the 22nd of February 2021, I raised the matter of the new Land Development Agency Bill 2021 which was published on the 5th of February 2021. We, the Members of Laois County Council are expressing our strong opposition to this Bill. If enacted, it will remove the powers from Local Authority Members in particular, the local knowledge and also our reserved functions under Section 183 notices for the disposal of public lands owned by Local Authorities. It is a further erosion of Local Authority Member's power.

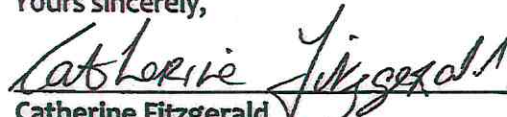
The Members requested that the matter be referred to you as a matter of urgency. We are strongly requesting that this part of the Bill be dissolved.

I would be obliged to receive your comments/observations on the matter in early course.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Kind Regards,

Yours sincerely,


Catherine Fitzgerald
Cathaoilreach of Laois County Council

Tá Fáilte Romhat
Gnó a Dhéanamh
as Gaeilge





COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

3rd February, 2021.

Our Ref: December 20-17

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the December meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for Transport, Climate, Environment and Communication to provide specific funding to all local authorities in order to create a role for an active and sustainable travel officer so that alternatives to the dependency on cars can be worked on. The role would also include modal shift, behavioural change and designing for the active mobility of people of all ages and abilities who have a right of access to our public streets.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

***Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.***

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta**
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

**Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate**
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



3rd February, 2021.

Our Ref: January 21-10

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the January meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“I am calling on Minister Darragh O’Brien and Minister of State Peter Burke to urgently review planning policy in relation to the Development of Residential property.

1/ What I am looking for is more clarity and transparency in relation to developers applying for private residential development and disposal of the total development when completed for social housing.

2/ Developers are required to deliver on Part V of their obligations in the delivery of a portion of the development for Social and Affordable Housing and this has to be agreed with the planners with input from Senior Officers within the housing section.

3/ Planning and housing have a duty to deliver balanced tenure and sustainable communities where a mix of housing would be available for both private and social needs.

4/ The development of large scale social housing requires considerable assistance and support at local level and in some instances local services are not sufficient to provide school placements and other essential supports for some vulnerable families and this has to be a consideration for planners.

5/ Currently members of the public wishing to purchase their own property are finding it very difficult to find private property for sale as the policy in planning is mostly focused on the delivery of social housing and in turn this policy puts more pressure on local authorities waiting lists and for the lower to middle income bracket they cannot get on the list due to income thresholds.

Public confidence needs to be strengthened in the whole planning process and I am hopeful the Ministers will find the balance required in the development of vibrant communities.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

3rd February, 2021.

Our Ref: January 21-12

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the January meeting of Clare County Council the members passed the following resolution:

“In light of the incredible service and commitment given to the country by our frontline staff, healthcare workers, carers and lifesavers over the period of the Covid 19 Global Pandemic I call on the government to explore any and every manner to tangibly recognise this extraordinary above and beyond service.

I propose this recognition should be in the form of direct tax free bonus payment similar to the €500 one off payment scheme introduced in Scotland, a tax credit, additional paid leave, or other appropriate clear and tangible reward to mark this commitment.

To do this I call on the Department of Health to lead a cross department group with the achievement of above as its one objective.”

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

***Ann Reynolds,
A/Senior Executive Officer,
Corporate Services Department,
Finance and Support Services Directorate.***

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta**
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

**Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate**
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cathartha,
Cluain Meala,
Co. Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cathartha,
An tAonach,
Co. Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council,
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15th February, 2021

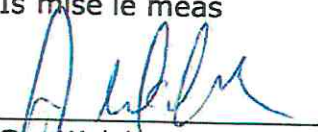
To: Each Local Authority

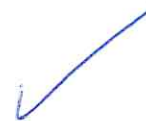
A Chara

I write to inform you that at a Meeting of Tipperary County Council held on 8th February, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for support: -

"That Tipperary County Council write to the Minister of Environment, Climate and Communication, Eamon Ryan, TD seeking a 75% rebate in the PSO levy on ESB bills for Community Halls and facilities because of their inability to fundraise due to Covid-19. This motion if passed should be circulated to all other Councils and DPER".

Is mise le meas


Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator





Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigi Cathartha,
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Tipperary County Council,
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Co. Tipperary

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15th February, 2021

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara

I write to inform you that at a Meeting of Tipperary County Council held on 8th February, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for support: -

“That Tipperary county Council calls on the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Ms. Catherine Martin, T.D., to consider providing extra supports to regional newspapers who provide an essential service to may communities including in County Tipperary during the Covid pandemic”.

Is mise le meas

Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cathartha,
Cluain Meala,
Co. Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary

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23rd February, 2021

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara

I write to inform you that at a Special Meeting of Tipperary County Council held on 15th February, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for support: -

“That Tipperary County Council call on the Government to introduce a National day of recognition for the survivors and victims of Mother and Baby Homes. That Survivors of Mother and Baby Homes should have the right to information about their birth Mother and their full identity. The Government would Establish a proper redress scheme for survivors and victims and immediately provide counselling and other mental health services to survivors of Mother and Baby Homes to support them in this remarkably difficult time. Also, that we as a council recognise the Historical role that County, Borough and Town Councils from Tipperary played in the running of Mother and Baby institutions in this County, so that we can be sure that this sad part of our past is known and not hidden away. That the government would also support the excavation, exhumation and where possible the identification of remains of babies buried at institutions and insure their dignified reburial and in particular support the endeavours of the We are Still Here Sean Ross Group to complete a 3D scan dig of identified burial locations at Sean Ross. The Council also calls on Minister Roderic O ‘Gorman to extend the lifetime of the commission to allow the DPC (data protection commission) to fully investigate the destroying of recordings of evidence without making full transcripts. This immediate action is required to preserve the testimony of witnesses”.

Is mise le meas

Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator



12th February 2021

Please quote my Ref 2(a) Item 6 NoM 3 Jan 21 KLY on all correspondence


Dear Meetings Administrator

At a recent meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Killarney, the members passed the following resolution.

"That Killarney MD would write to the Minister for Health requesting the immediate introduction of payment to student nurses, once they take up placement duties. If this motion is passed, I ask that it would be circulated to all other Local Authorities requesting their support."

It was agreed that this resolution would be circulated to other Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely


Pádraig Corkery
Meetings Administrator



Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí,
Áras an Chontae,
Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

Corporate Services

Kerry County Council,
County Buildings,
Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Guthán | Tel 066 7183514 Facs | Fax 066 7183848 Rphost | Email secretar@kerrycoco.ie Suíomh | Web www.kerrycoco.ie

16 February 2021

To/ Each Local Authority

A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Kerry County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution.

“That this Council writes to Ms. Samantha Power, newly appointed Head of US Aid by President Biden to address this Council at some future date.”

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities for their attention and consideration.

Mise, le meas,

Pádraig Corkery
Riarthóir Cruinnithe / Meetings Administrator
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí / Kerry County Council



GAEILGE AGUS FÁILTE

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí,
Áras an Chontae,
Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

Corporate Services

Kerry County Council,
County Buildings,
Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Guthán | Tel 066 7183514 Facs | Fax 066 7183848 Rphost | Email secretar@kerrycoco.ie Suíomh | Web www.kerrycoco.ie

16 February 2021

To/ Each Local Authority

A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Kerry County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution.

“That this Council calls on the Government to utilise its seat on the United Nations Security Council to deliver Statehood to the Palestinian people.”

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities for their attention and consideration.

Mise, le meas,

Pádraig Corkery
Riarthóir Cruinnithe / Meetings Administrator
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí / Kerry County Council



GAEILGE AGUS FÁILTE

16th February 2021

Our Ref 02/0121

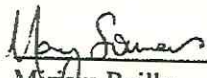
Dear Meetings Administrator

The following Motion was AGREED at meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 11th January 2021.

“During the massive struggle that has been waged by ex- Debenhams workers across the companies 11 stores in Ireland the deficit of workers protection in liquidations has again been sharply exposed. This Council calls for the immediate implementation of the Duffy/Cahill Report, compiled in 2016 in the aftermath of The Clery’s dispute- as one way of strengthening workers’ rights and tackling the legal outs provided to major corporations who engage in tactical liquidations in order to avoid their obligations under hard won workers’ rights. If passed this Council communicates such in writing to Government, to all Local Authorities and to the ICTU offering its support for implementation”.

It was agreed that this motion would be circulated to all local authorities.

Yours sincerely

or 
Miriam Reilly
Meetings Administrator



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,
, Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Corporate Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

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2nd February, 2021.

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

I write to inform you that at a Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 25th January, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities for support:

“That, Limerick City and County Council acknowledge the oversight role played by Councils in mother and baby homes, and call on all Councils to write to the Government to establish a national day of recognition for the women and their children impacted; and that the Council write to the Minister for Children asking that the survivors be given access to a written copy of Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes.”

Is mise le meas,



**James Clune,
Meetings Administrator.**



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceannteathrú Chorparáideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Corporate Services,
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Limerick

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2nd February, 2021.

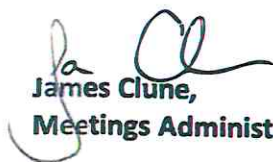
To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

I write to inform you that at a Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 25th January, 2021, the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate it to all Local Authorities for support:

“That, Limerick City and County Council requests the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to immediately suspend the statutory time period for the preparation of the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022 - 2028 until such time as (a) public health restrictions are lifted to allow for safe face-to-face engagement between the Elected Members, the public and the Executive and (b) the Department provides a definition of the ‘social and economic need’ as referred to in the National Planning Framework.”

Is mise le meas,



James Clune,
Meetings Administrator.