

M167

Angela O'Shea

From: Minister McGraths Office <per-mmo-correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday 12 April 2021 18:17
To: Angela O'Shea
Subject: PER-MMO-00418-2021

Our Ref: PER-MO-00418-2021

Ms Honor Dunphy

Meetings Administrator

Waterford City and County Council

City Hall

The Mall

Waterford

Re: Motion from Waterford City & County Council regarding the future of the Post Office Network

Dear Ms Dunphy

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr Michael McGrath, TD, has asked me to respond to your email of 26 February 2021 (REF:HD/AOS/M167) regarding the above matter. Minister McGrath has noted the resolution passed by the Waterford City and County Council regarding the future sustainability of the post office network, and the motion passed by the Dáil on the issue in 2016.

As you will be aware, the *Programme for Government – Our Shared Future* document envisioned a modernised post office network to provide a better range of financial services and e-commerce services for citizens and enterprise. The Government remains committed to a sustainable nationwide post office network.

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform has noted this resolution, but, as you will appreciate, policy regarding the postal sector and communications networks are a matter for the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr Eamon Ryan, TD in the first instance. In that regard, I understand from your letter that Minister Ryan's Department has also received a copy of this resolution. Thank you for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Collins

Private Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform

M181

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



15th April 2021

Mr. Honor Dunphy ,

Waterford City and County Council,

City Hall,

The Mall,

Waterford

Ref No: CEDIY-MOGO-02635-2021

Dear Mr. Dunphy,

On behalf of Roderic O’Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your letter concerning HD/AOS/M181. Your correspondence is receiving attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Hughes
Private Secretary to Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD

M175

Angela O'Shea

From: eCorrespondence (DFHERIS) <dfheris-Correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 15 April 2021 15:54
To: Angela O'Shea
Subject: The Technological University

Our Ref: DFHE-MO-00088-2021

Honor Dunphy

15th April 2021

Dear Honor,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Mr. Simon Harris T.D., regarding The Technological University.

Your correspondence will be brought to the attention of Minister Harris.

Yours Sincerely,

Frances-Mary Long
Private Secretary to Minister Simon Harris T.D.,
Minister for Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

M184

Angela O'Shea

From: Housing Minister Of State <ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 15 April 2021 18:02
To: Angela O'Shea
Subject: RE: Motion

Dear Ms O'Shea,

On behalf of Mr Peter Burke T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your email and the attached letter dated 12th April 2021 on behalf of Ms Honor Dunphy.

Kind regards,

—
Erica Daly
Minister of State Burke's Office

—
An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

—
www.gov.ie/tithiocht
www.gov.ie/housing



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Please note: The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015

From: Angela O'Shea <aoshea@waterfordcouncil.ie>
Sent: Thursday 15 April 2021 12:17
To: Housing Minister Of State <ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Motion

Dear Minister Burke,

The attached Motion No. 184 was agreed at a meeting of Waterford City and County Council held on 8th April, 2021 and asked that it be forwarded to you for your attention.

Kind regards,

*Angela O'Shea,
Office of the Chief Executive,
Waterford City & County Council,
City Hall.*



15th April 2021

Ms. Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator
Waterford City & County Council
City Hall
The Mall
Co. Waterford

Your Ref: HD/AOS/M179

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12th April 2021 to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Timmins

Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01-6194000

E-mail: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

M182

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



Via Email only: Angela O'Shea <aoshea@waterfordcouncil.ie>

RE: Ref: HD/AOS/M182

16-04-2021

Dear Honor,

Many thanks for your letter in relation to the recent Motion taken on Personal Assistance Service and apologies for the delay in responding.

Firstly, it's positive to see such engagement on the issue of disabilities by the Councillors, and I hope is indicative of their commitment to further bolstering their support for people with disabilities in other Council initiatives.

As you may know, the Personal Assistant service in Ireland is over 25 years old and was pioneered by the Centre for Independent Living as the EU-funded research programme INCARE. The Personal Assistant service involves the employment of personal assistants (PAs) by people with physical disabilities to enable them to live as independent a life as possible.

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Home Support and Personal Assistant services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives. Home Support services are provided under Section 61 of the 1970 Health Act which states that "a health board may make arrangements to assist in the maintenance at home of a sick or infirm person or a dependant of such a person." The Act specifies "may" and therefore the provision of Home Support Services is discretionary.

In June 1992 the Minister for Health established a Review Group on Health and Personal Social Services for People with Physical and Sensory Disability to examine the existing provision of health care to people with physical or sensory disabilities and to consider how they should be developed to meet more effectively their needs. The report of the Review Group, *Towards an Independent Future*, was presented to the Minister in December 1996 and contained 92 recommendations around the development of services to facilitate people with a physical or sensory disability living as independently as possible in the community. The Report identified three different levels of personal assistance from a person with a disability being the employer, to assistance being given for specific tasks to other forms of assistance primarily to offer respite to the carer.

Great significance was attached by the Group to integrating services for people with disabilities into mainstream services, where possible and it was recommended that priority be assigned to the provision of more day care, respite care, nursing and therapy services, personal assistants and residential accommodation. While the resources for the provision of assisted living services available are substantial they are finite.

Anne Rabbitte TD
Aire Stait
Minister of State

Bloc 1, Plaza Miesach, 50-58 Sráid Bhagóid Íochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 2. D02 XW14
Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2. D02 XW14
T +353 1 647 3000 | mos@equality.gov.ie
www.equality.gov.ie



The independent living philosophy underpinning the Personal Assistant service concurs with the approach that people with a disability should be empowered to live independently. The philosophy of independent living espouses living like everyone else, i.e. having the right to self determination, to exert control over one's life, to have opportunities to make decisions, take responsibility and to pursue activities of one's own choosing, regardless of disability.

The role of a Personal Assistant (PA) is to assist a person with a disability to maximise their independence through supporting them to live in integrated settings and to access community facilities. The PA works on a one to one basis, in the home and/or in the community, with a person with a physical or sensory disability. A vital element of this personalised support is the full involvement of the individual (service user) in planning and agreeing the type and the times when support is provided to them, supporting independent living must enhance the person's control over their own life. Article 19 of the UN Convention states that disabled people should live where they wish and with whom they wish. That they should enjoy a range of community support services including personal assistance. That they should enjoy community life and its opportunities on an equal basis to non-disabled people and they should not be subject to isolation or segregation.

The HSE acknowledges the role of PA Services in supporting the person with a disability to realise the entitlements set out in Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). As Ireland has now ratified the UN Convention it will be necessary to have a policy on the provision of PA services with an agreed definition, criteria for accessing the service, assessment process and an indication of the level of support that can be provided.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community-based staff. Individual's needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of PA services and while the resources available are substantial, they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary, and the number of hours granted is determined by the available resources and other support services already provided to the person.

In the normal course of service delivery, there will be ongoing reviews throughout the year to ensure that if needs change the service provided will address this change within available resources. An individual's PA hours may be adjusted following a service review where service demand can result in one individual's service being reduced in order to address priority needs of other people with disabilities within that community.



PA Services, in the main, are provided through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

In the context of Covid-19, I believe it is important to note that the number of people in receipt of Personal Assistance services remained steady throughout the pandemic. Indeed, the number of PA hours exceeded the 2020 National Service Plan target by 6.7%, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to support Personal Assistants (PAs) during the pandemic, the HSE Disability Operations Quality Improvement Office developed infection, prevention and control bespoke guidance for PAs. This was developed in collaboration with Leaders, Personal Assistants and Service Providers and was agreed with the Health Surveillance Protection Centre (HSPC) and was published on the HSE's website.

In the 2021 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is to continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support Services to 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.71 million PA hours and over 3 million Home Support Hours. This includes the allocation of an additional 40,000 PA hours in accordance with the NSP 2021.

I hope this clarifies matters for you.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Rabbitte TD

Angela O'Shea

From: Housing Minister Of State <ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 16 April 2021 14:20
To: Angela O'Shea
Subject: RE: Motion

Dear Ms O'Shea,

On behalf of Mr Peter Burke T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your email and the attached letter dated 12th April 2021 on behalf of Ms Honor Dunphy, which has been forwarded from the office of Minister Darragh O'Brien.

Kind regards,

—
Erica Daly
Minister of State Burke's Office

—
An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

—
www.gov.ie/tithiocht
www.gov.ie/housing



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Please note: The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015

—
From: Angela O'Shea <aoshea@waterfordcouncil.ie>
Sent: Thursday 15 April 2021 12:21
To: Housing Minister <MINISTER@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Motion

Dear Minister O'Brien,

The attached Motion No. 176 was agreed at a meeting of Waterford City and County Council held on 8th April, 2021 and asked that it be forwarded to you for your attention.

Kind regards,

*Angela O'Shea,
Office of the Chief Executive,
Waterford City & County Council,
City Hall.*

Subject: FW: FAO Ms. Honor Murphy

From: Housing Minister Of State [<mailto:ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie>]

Sent: Tuesday 20 April 2021 16:51

To: Contact User

Subject: FAO Ms. Honor Murphy

Oifig an Runáí Aire

Office of the Minister of State

20th April 2021

Ms. Honor Murphy
Waterford City and County Council
contactwaterfordcouncil.ie

Ref: HPLG-MoSB-00381-2021

Dear Ms. Murphy,

I refer to your correspondence to Mr. Peter Burke TD, Minister for Planning and Local Government, in relation to the Land Development Agency Bill, which will place the Land Development Agency (LDA) on a statutory basis as a State agency, and the queries you have raised.

The purpose of the LDA is to increase the supply of housing in the State, and in particular affordable housing, by developing and regenerating relevant public lands for the development of housing. It has two central goals to build affordable homes on relevant public lands and strategic land management. It is being set up to make the most of all relevant public lands in order to tackle the housing crisis. Relevant public lands are lands in a census town with a population of over 10,000 that is owned by a relevant public body listed in Schedule 1 or 2 of the LDA Bill, or a local authority.

The LDA has a core remit of providing affordable homes at scale in sustainable communities based on best environmental practise across under used or unused relevant public lands. Every tool needs to be used in addressing the housing crisis, and relevant public lands can play an important role in providing homes for cost rental or affordable purchase in our towns and cities. In the long run, the LDA will also help to strategically manage land by assembling sites in key areas.

In relation to your query concerning reserved functions under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, the matters contained in Section 56 of the Bill would only arise where the local authority has decided to put lands up for sale and must give the LDA 'first refusal' to purchase the lands under Section 51(1). This is consistent with the arrangements under Part 7 of the LDA Bill requiring all public bodies, who have decided to dispose of lands, to offer them first for sale to the LDA. In this situation, Section 183 of the Local Government Act will not apply to avoid duplicatory decision making processes arising, which could delay the delivery of homes on these lands. It should be emphasised that the LDA legislation has no provisions compelling local authorities to sell their land to the LDA or any other third party. The initial decision to sell land remains with the local authority. Furthermore, under Section 55 of the LDA Bill, the LDA requires the consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for any proposed land sales by the agency itself. Section 183 of the Local Government Act will remain in force for local authority land disposals to all other parties.

Under Section 14 of the LDA Bill a local authority can direct the LDA to provide services to it in relation to the development of large scale sites for housing and urban development in population centres of 30,000 or more. These sites will predominantly remain in local authority ownership post development. It is envisaged that the majority of the LDA's work on local authority lands will be in such co-operative arrangements with the LDA as an additional resource to assist local authorities in housing delivery. The primary responsibility of local authorities as housing authorities to deliver housing will not be impacted by the LDA Bill.

I hope the above clarifies matters.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Madden
Private Secretary to Minister of State Peter Burke

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

www.tithiocht.gov.ie
www.housing.gov.ie



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Please note: The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015

23/4/21



WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Audit Committee

Work Programme 2021

*Section 59 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014:
Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014*

DO: GACH BALL DE CHOMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

The 2021 Audit Committee work programme has been prepared in accordance with Waterford City & County Council's Audit Committee Charter and is set out hereunder for your consideration.

The Audit Committee has an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters, as part of the governance arrangements that operate within the local authority.

Audit Committee membership

Padraic Doherty – Chairperson

Nora Widger

Tom Egan

Cllr. Eamon Quinlan

Cllr. Damien Geoghegan

The Committee's work is supported by Bernard Pollard, Head of Finance and Hilda Fitzgerald, Internal Auditor.

In 2021 the Audit Committee will meet five times and may convene additional meetings, as circumstances require. During C-19 restrictions, meetings will be held online through MS Teams.

Meeting dates 2021

12th February 2021

23rd April 2021

11th June 2021

1st October 2021

3rd December 2021

The functions of the audit committee are as prescribed by section 59 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014:

1. To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority:
2. To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function:
3. To review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings:
4. To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions:
5. To review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks:
6. To review the findings and recommendations of the NOAC and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate:

The table on the following pages outline specific tasks that the Audit Committee will undertake. There are additional actions/tasks that the Committee will fulfil during 2021 such as:

- Agree and Submit Annual Work Programme to Council for adoption.
- Prepare Annual Report for submission to the Council.
- Review Effectiveness of Audit Committee for submission to Council
- Audit Committee Charter – annual review

Functions of the Audit Committee	Committee Tasks / Actions	Specific Actions/Tasks and Timeframe
<p>To review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within Waterford City & County Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain an understanding of the financial management arrangements and budgetary practices in the local authority including day to day (revenue) and capital income and expenditures Review and consider all aspects of the financial cycle (budgets, monitoring and annual financial statements incorporating annual, six-monthly or quarterly budgetary outturns and variance trend analysis Review of financial management and reporting arrangements in addition to auditing existing financial policies, procedures and protocols as considered necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider AFS briefing HOF Q2 Consider Budget briefing HOF Q3 Review Budget 2021 Q3/Q4
<p>To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Council of its internal audit function;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and approve the most recent internal audit charter and internal audit plan Monitoring of the audit plan Review of periodic Internal Audit reports, findings and recommendations and management responses Review the nature and extent of the internal audit unit / resourcing e.g. organisation chart, auditor training and development etc and bring any recommendations to the attention of the Chief Executive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review & Approve Internal Audit Charter (Q1) Review 2020 Internal Audit Plan (Q1) Consider and Approve Internal Audit Plan 2021 (Q1) Review Periodic Internal Audit Reports (Q1-Q4) Review progress on previously made internal audit recommendations (Q2/Q4) Review Internal Audit unit resourcing (Q1-Q4)

<p>To review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to 2020 and assess any actions taken by its chief executive and to report to the Council on its findings;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the results of the statutory audit and relevant auditor's report and meet with the Local Government Auditor and management. • Review the actions and management responses to the audit findings • Report to the Council on the findings of its review of the statutory audit report at the next practicable meeting of Council. • Arrange for the Auditor to meet with the Committee at least, on an annual basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review LGA 2020 Audit Report • Meet with LGA to review statutory audit report 2020 (Q4) • Review any Audited Financial Statements, Auditor's Report or Auditor's Special Report, assess action taken Q4. • Report to the Council LGA Audit 2019 report. Q2
<p>To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Council's performance of its functions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive reports on key directorate performance indicators and measures • Gain understanding of the National Service Indicator process and the relative position of the authority across the key service areas • Consider the nature and extent of use of performance measures and indicators across the services and how these are reported • Clarify value for money expectations and the scoping arrangements for assessing VFM • Consider the functional areas of the council and the potential to undertake / commission VFM reviews • Review management's arrangements to ensure and demonstrate economy, efficiency and effectiveness across the organisation. • Request special reports from management or internal audit as considered appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Chief Executive • Review Risk Management, Value for Money and Efficiency in relation to an individual Directorate (presentations from DOS/Senior Staff) Q1-Q4 • Review Value For Money Studies issued by Local Government Audit Service VFM unit (Q1-Q4)

<p>To review systems that are operated by the Council for the management of risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the risk management framework and risk management process in the authority Consider whether processes are in place to manage risks effectively, in accordance with organisational guidelines and business plans. Consider the corporate and business planning processes and the interaction with risk management processes Review the corporate risk management policy and receive presentations from management on risk registers. Engage with risk management function / chief risk officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Corporate Risk Register Q2 Meet with Risk Registrar Q2 All presentations from DOS/Senior Staff to include Risk Register analysis for relevant directorate Q1-Q4
<p>To review the findings and recommendations of the NOAC and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review relevant findings and recommendations of the National Oversight and Audit Commission, Review the response of the Chief Executive to such findings and recommendations, and to take further action as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review NOAC Performance Indicators report(Q1-Q4) Review Annual Quality Assurance Assmt -- Public Spending Code Q2 Review other NOAC reports as they arise. Q1-Q4

Engagement with Internal Auditor

The audit committee will meet at least four times in 2021 with the internal auditor.

Engagement with Chief Executive and Senior Staff

The audit committee will meet the Chief Executive in 2021 to review the performance and achievements of the committee during the year and to discuss the key issues and focus of the audit committee for the next year. The audit committee will meet senior staff of the local authority, including the Directors of Services, for briefing or clarity on issues arising.

Engagement with Local Government Auditor

The Chairperson of the committee will invite the relevant Local Government Auditor to meet the committee in 2021.

Engagement with Council

The audit committee will prepare and submit a report to Council on its activities during 2020. The audit committee's 2021 annual work programme will also be prepared and submitted to Council.

The Audit Committee Programme as set out above represents the core programme to be completed by the Audit Committee during the year. Additional items may be added where matters of concern, information or clarification arise during the year.

Signed

Padraic Doherty

Audit Committee Chairperson

Dated:

23rd April 2021



Oifig an Aire | Office of the Minister

Ms. Honor Dunphy,
Waterford City & County Council
City Hall
The Mall
Waterford
Co Waterford

27th April 2021

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-01972-2021

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

Thank you for contacting the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee TD. The Minister has requested that I respond to you on her behalf, and I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The Minister believes that it is a matter of great importance that the proceeds of crime are both recovered and reinvested back into keeping our communities safe.

I am happy to inform you that on 21st April, Minister McEntee and Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath TD, announced a new fund to help local communities.

The new Community Safety Innovation Fund will reflect the significant success of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in disrupting criminal activity and seizing proceeds of crime by providing additional funding for investment in community safety projects.

The Community Innovation Safety Fund will:

- Ensure that the best proposals to improve community safety will get the funding they need;
- Encourage the development of innovative ways in which to improve community safety from those people who understand local community safety needs best;
- Allow best practice on community safety to be shared with other partnerships around the country as new proposals get developed.

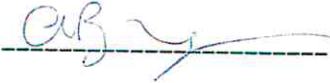
The establishment of new Community Safety Partnerships in every local authority area is a key element of wide ranging reforms under the Policing and Community Safety Bill, which will give effect to the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland. Once established, the Community Safety Partnerships will be able to seek funding to implement their community safety proposals.

Three pilot Community Safety Partnerships are already currently being established in Longford, Waterford and Dublin's north inner city. Following this pilot period, Partnerships will be established in every local authority area across the country.

The new Community Safety Innovation Fund will support the work of the Community Safety Partnerships and other policy initiatives in the Department of Justice in the areas of Community Safety and Youth Justice.

I hope this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

PP. 

Patrick McCabe
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice

Angela O'Shea

From: Housing Minister Of State [ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie]
Sent: Tuesday 4 May 2021 16:16
To: Angela O'Shea
Subject: RE: Motion

Oifig an Runaí Aire

Office of the Minister of State

4th May 2021

Ms. Honor Dunphy
Waterford City and County Council

Ref: HPLG-MoSB-00379-2021

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

I refer to your correspondence in relation to solar panel planning exemptions, which was forwarded to Mr. Peter Burke TD, Minister for Planning and Local Government, by Minister Darragh O'Brien.

I wish to explain at the outset that under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended (the Act), all development, unless specifically exempted under the Act or associated Regulations, requires planning permission. Section 4 of the Act and Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (the Regulations), set out various exemptions from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Any such exemptions are subject to compliance with any general restrictions on exemptions set out in the Act or the Regulations and to the specific conditions set out in each class of exempted development in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Included in the planning exemptions set out in the Regulations are those applying to the installation of solar infrastructure on a variety of building types, including houses, businesses, industrial and agricultural to which specific conditions are attached.

As part of the Climate Action Plan 2019, the Department is currently undertaking a review of the solar panel exemptions, and is actively engaging with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications as well as other key stakeholders, with a view to finalising a proposal for draft amending Regulations to reflect, inter alia, technical developments in the sector. One of the key considerations of the review is to ensure that solar panels can be erected - subject to certain siting and size conditions - without the need to obtain planning permission, thereby facilitating more widespread generation of renewable energy for self-consumption. Also included in this review are solar panel exemptions for educational and community buildings.

The main outstanding issue that remains to be addressed in the current review is the potential for "glint and glare" impacts for aircraft and the need to ensure that they do not result in any real or potential threat to aviation safety. Accordingly, the Department is presently engaging with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications as well as the Irish Aviation Authority, in order to find a safe and workable solution in relation to this particular aspect of the review. The Department has begun the tendering process for this project, which will involve the development of aviation safeguarding maps for each airport/aerodrome in the country, and has received feedback from potential tenderers estimating a timeline of up to 9 months for its completion. As such, these maps, which are a fundamental aspect of any amendments to the exemptions, are expected to be finalised in Q3 2021.

In recognition of the length of time that it is expected to take to complete the aviation safeguarding maps, the Department has decided to adopt an interim measure which would allow revised regulations to be introduced prior to the completion of these maps, but with defined exclusion zones around airports and aerodromes for solar installations. The Department is consulting with the Irish Aviation Authority on this matter, and is working towards the development of draft regulations in this regard, the precise details of which have yet to be finalised.

As required under planning legislation, any such proposed exempted development regulations must be laid in draft form before the Houses of the Oireachtas, and receive a positive resolution from both Houses before they can be made. The draft regulations will also be subject to screening under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC to determine whether they are likely to have significant environmental effects. If there are significant effects, the undertaking of an SEA will be required, which will include public consultation.

The process for finalising the interim solar panel planning exemptions as referred to above, with exclusion zones around airports and aerodromes, is now expected to be completed in Q2 2021. These interim regulations will allow for the vast majority of the country to be covered by the solar panel exemptions apart from those areas in close proximity to airports and aerodromes.

The overall process for updating the solar panel planning exemptions to include the completed aviation safeguarding maps for airports and aerodromes is still expected to be completed by Q4 2021.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Madden
Private Secretary to Minister of State Peter Burke

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

www.tithiocht.gov.ie
www.housing.gov.ie



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Please note: The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015

From: Angela O'Shea <aoshea@waterfordcouncil.ie>
Sent: Thursday 15 April 2021 12:21
To: Housing Minister <MINISTER@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Motion

An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health
Office of the Minister



Ref: LD985

4th May 2021

Ms. Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator
Waterford City & County Council
City Hall
The Mall
Waterford City

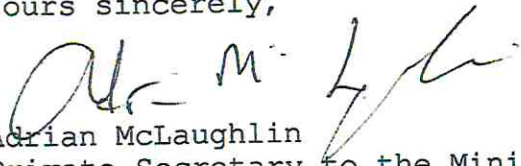
Dear Ms. Dunphy,

Anne Rabbitte T.D., Minister for Disabilities has asked me to refer to your recent letter concerning Personal Assistants.

Ireland ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) in 2018. Advancing the implementation of the UNCPRD is an ongoing priority. Our approach to meeting the obligations of the UNCPRD is one of progressive realisation, each year moving forward on key reforms. The Government is committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities. The HSE provides a range of assisted living services, including Personal Assistant (PA) services to support individuals to live independent lives. Significant resources have been invested by the health sector in disability services, and the Government has ensured that an additional €100 million is being provided for new disability measures this year under budget 2021. These measures will include an additional 80,000 personal assistant hours. The Programme for Government agreed to deliver further Personal Assistance hours to people with disabilities. The Programme for Government also commits to the development of an implementation plan to co-ordinate implementation of the UNCPRD. This would include examining how best to ensure that people with disabilities can access the support services, including personal assistance that they require to participate in the community. There are no plans for additional legislation governing the right, entitlements and operations associated with the PA services at this time.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian McLaughlin
Private Secretary to the Minister for Disabilities

M169.



Oifig on Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Our Ref : C/ MK - 2021/105

5th May 2021

Ms. Honor Dunphy
dunphy@waterfordcouncil.ie

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

I refer to your correspondence requesting to have the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, sensitively disinterred and reinterred at Glasnevin cemetery with the appropriate decorum.

The Office of Public Works is aware of the current campaign led by the National Graves Association to exhume and reinter the five people known as the Invincibles in Glasnevin Cemetery. Requests such as this are of a very sensitive and delicate nature and there are a number of matters to consider, both in terms of the significant practicalities involved and the ethical issues. While the general area of the site of the graves in Kilmainham is relatively well known, there is no detailed plan showing definitively exactly where individuals were interred and even were it to be precisely located, there would be practical issues involved in positively identifying the remains. It is understood from contemporaneous accounts that after execution, the remains were buried in quicklime and this would render an exhumation and positive identification very difficult, if not impossible.

Kilmainham Gaol is a National Monument and an iconic and much respected site in the context of the national independence struggle in particular. The fact that it is also a grave location adds a significant resonance to its penal and historical significance and there is a strong opposing view to the current campaign that believes that the grave should not be disturbed and the remains should be left within the confines of the Monument.



Oifig on Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Finally, The Office of Public Works clearly understands that any move to undertake an exhumation and re-interral project would certainly not be undertaken unilaterally and would have to be considered and approved in the first instance as a policy matter, which is outside our remit.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick O'Donovan,
Minister of State at the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief

Audit, Governance & Risk Management



Audit (and Risk) Committee Member Training

» [BOOK NOW](#)

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, participants will:

- Understand the role and responsibilities of the Audit (and Risk) Committee as part of the governance and assurance systems with organisations;
- Review and consider the essential features of effective Audit (and Risk) Committees;
- Examine the specific responsibilities of the Audit (and Risk) Committee;
- Consider the key elements of the annual Audit (and Risk) Committee work programme;
- Have a greater understanding of the legal, regulatory and professional obligations for Audit (and Risk) Committees.

Course Content

This course will cover the following areas:

- Role and responsibilities of Audit (and Risk) Committees
- Audit (and Risk) Committee Charters
- Relationships with senior management, internal audit and Board
- Audit (and Risk) Committee Work Programme
- Risk Management systems and audit oversight
- Assurance arrangements
- Assessing audit committee effectiveness
- Implications of current circumstances & Covid-19 related uncertainties and vulnerabilities

Delivery, Dates and Cost

This is a two hour course which includes a 10 minute break. It will be remotely delivered through MS Teams and facilitated by subject matter experts.

Dates: 26 February 2021

3 June 2021

Times: 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Cost: €160 per person.



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí Cork City Council

Halla na Cathrach, Corcaigh - City Hall, Cork - T12 T997

8th April 2021

TO: EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the March meeting of Cork City Council, the Members passed the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will send a letter of support which condemns the racial and misogynistic abuse being inflicted on the Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr. Hazel Chu.’

(Proposers: Cllr. C. Finn, Cllr. O. Moran, Cllr. L. Bogue, Cllr. D. Boyle 21/118)

A letter was sent on 26th March 2021. It was agreed to send a copy of this motion to all Councils.

Mise Le Meas,

PP: Sarah O'Callaghan
Alma Murnane
Meetings Administrator



We are Cork.



Minister Heather Humphreys T.D.
Department Rural and Community Development

Date: 15th April 2021

Re: Notice of Motion – March Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council 21.21b

Dear Minister,

At a recent Plenary Meeting of Roscommon County Council, the following motion was agreed by the Members:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kilduff
SECONDED by Cllr. Fallon

It was **AGREED** to write to the Taoiseach and Minister Heather Humphreys at the Department of Rural and Community Development to immediately establish an Annual Fund for necessary capital works projects at our nations cemeteries to specifically address the deterioration of pavements, boundary walls, overgrown trees and other similar capital works requirements in the interest of health and safety, stimulating local economies, pride of place at these sacred public spaces, but most importantly in deference to the memory of our deceased loved ones throughout the county. It was further agreed to circulate the motion to all Local Authorities.

As the request of the Council, I would be obliged to receive your reply to this matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours Faithfully,



Patricia Bohan,
Meetings Administrator,
Corporate Services,
Roscommon County Council.
Email: meetingsadmin@roscommoncoco.ie



15th April, 2021

TO: ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Donegal County Council at their recent meeting resolved to adopt the following resolution:-

"Iarraim ar Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall tacú le hiarrachtaí Phobalscoil na Rosann ina bhfeachtas chun dul i ngleic leis an anás míosta i gContae Dhún na nGall. Chuige seo, ba chóir dúinn a chinntiú go bhfuil teacht, saor in aisce, ar earraí sláintíochta in achan fhoirgneamh de chuid Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, ionaid phobail, linnte snámha agus leabharlanna, fá choinne oibríthe agus baill den phobal. Tá an rún seo ag moladh go mbunófaí grúpa oibre traspholaitiúil leis an taighde riachtanach uilig, agus leis an éascaíocht uilig, a bheadh de dhíth a dhéanamh leis an rún seo a chur i bhfeidhm gan mhoill".

"I call on Donegal County Council to support the endeavours of Rosses Community School in their campaign to address period poverty, in County Donegal. In doing so we should make available access to sanitary items free of charge in all Donegal County Council buildings, community centres, swimming pools and libraries, for both workers and members of the public. This motion calls for a cross political working group to be set up to carry out all necessary research and facilitation for this motion to become a reality in a timely manner".

It was agreed to circulate same to all other local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

p.p. 
Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH
ÁRAS AN CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL RIVERSIDE SLIGO

T +353 71 911 1111 E info@sligococo.ie
F +353 71 914 1119 W www.sligococo.ie

15th April 2021

To/ Each Local Authority

At the Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council held on 12th April 2021, the following resolution was agreed:

"I propose that Sligo County Council write to An Tánaiste and ask him to intervene on the crisis facing our community sector in relation to insurance.

The community sector is facing so many challenges in re-opening vital programmes and services, and may not be in a position to recover from the impact of Covid-19 unless the cost of insurance is sorted. A review of the Judicial Guidelines has taken place recently. These guidelines control the amount of damages awarded for personal injury claims and hence the cost of insurance. These guidelines only brought damages for minor, fully-recovered injuries down by 52% in Ireland which means that we are still an outlier in Europe. An 80% reduction is required to bring us in line with England and Wales and get insurance costs down to affordable levels, especially for the community sector.

I also ask for this motion to be shared with all other local authorities".

Kevin Colreavy
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section
Sligo County Council
County Hall
Riverside
Sligo
F91 Y763

Tel: 071-9111216
e-mail: meetings@sligococo.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH
ÁRAS AN CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL RIVERSIDE SLIGO

T +353 71 911 1111 E info@sligococo.ie
F +353 71 914 1119 W www.sligococo.ie

15th April 2021

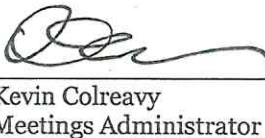
To/ Each Local Authority

At the Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council held on 12th April 2021, the following resolution was agreed:

“For this Council to write to the Minister for Finance Paschal Donohue following his recent remarks stating that taxes will rise after Covid and ask him not to increase taxes but instead borrow money to stimulate the economy over the next decade.

History shows that we cannot tax our way out of recession. The ECB are prepared to lend billions to allow the country to get back on track. An infrastructure plan including a massive house building programme should be included. In a decade, taxes will increase incrementally due to job creation therefore strengthening the economy and increasing our ability to repay the ECB”.

It was further agreed that a copy of this resolution would also be circulated to other Local Authorities.


Kevin Colreavy
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section
Sligo County Council
County Hall
Riverside
Sligo
F91 Y763

Tel: 071-9111216
e-mail: meetings@sligococo.ie



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

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

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

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 557150

f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

16th April, 2021.

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

I write to inform you that at Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 22nd March, 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 call on Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to retain the existing policies in relation to one-off rural housing as per the adopted Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 (Section 3.9 Rural Settlement Policy and including the Rural Settlement Strategy Map) in the emerging Limerick City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.”

Is mise le meas,



James Clune,
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

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 557150

f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

16th April, 2021.

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

I write to inform you that at Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 22nd March, 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, recognising the scale of the Housing crisis, reaffirm its commitment to work with Government and all relevant agencies towards delivering new housing units and, in particular, ensuring that sufficient Social and Affordable housing is built for those in need of same.

Recognising, however, its duty to use Limerick City and County Council property in the best interests of society, this Council reject the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency Bill, 2021, published by the Government, removing the role of the Elected Members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency.

The Council further agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that Elected Councillors retain the right to control such sales or transfers and be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council-owned lands.

The Council further agrees to circulate this Motion to each Local Authority and the Association of Irish Local Government requesting their support for this.”

Is mise le meas,



James Clune,
Meetings Administrator.



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

26th April, 2021.

Our Ref: April 21-25

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

“I am asking Clare County Council to write to the Taoiseach, Minister for Finance and the Minister for Social Protection, to prioritise that the carers allowance is no longer means tested after the 2021 budget. Given that the majority of carers are female and the fact that carer’s allowance is means tested a huge amount of women don’t receive any money due to their partners earnings.

This means that women carers are reliant on their husband or partner for financial support with no support from the state. This is a throw back to the 1800’s when women were not recognised by society for their contributions or value to the state. Carers are saving the state millions for this service with no recognition. The carers allowance should be provided to the carer regardless of their partners income, as that is their only means of income.

Why is it that the carers allowance is means tested but the children’s allowance is universal? Is one not as important as the other? I would like the Ministers and the Taoiseach to answer these questions.

I would also like that this motion is circulated to all councils across Ireland to show solidarity and support for all carers.”

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

Yours sincerely,

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

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúirtheoireacht 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

26th April, 2021.

Our Ref: April 21-26

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

“That Clare County Council ask the HSE and the “Connecting for Life” initiative to pilot a Community Psychiatric Car service in the County. This has been successfully piloted by the NHS in London. The Mental Health Joint Response Car (MHJRC) involves having a Community Psychiatric Nurse and Emergency Medical Technician on call 24/7. The rationale is that people in mental health crises in the community do not often require admission to hospital, rather to address their issues with trained personnel in their own homes. Equally the qualified personnel can also make the call if actual hospital admission is warranted. To date, evaluation of the pilot has proven successful in the UK and a further 7 cars are now in operation.

Currently, Goal four of Connecting for Life, Ireland's national strategy to reduce suicide 2015-2020, aims to enhance accessibility, consistency and care pathways of services for people vulnerable to suicidal behaviour. This motion seeks to enact this in real time in our communities. I also ask for the motion to be circulated to every local authority.”

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

Yours sincerely,

Ann Reynolds,
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

26th April, 2021.

Our Ref: April 21-30

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

“That Clare County Council write to the Department of Health and to Minister Stephen Donnelly requesting that Victims of Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence have access to free psychological support and counselling during and after the legal process as required. We request this support be provided bearing in mind that convicted perpetrators have access to these services at least over the duration of sentence. If passed we ask that this motion is shared with all other local authorities for support.”

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

Yours sincerely,

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

**An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrtóireacht 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

An Rannóg Gnóthaí Corparáideacha
Corporate Affairs

Secretarial Section
Leonora Earls, A/Director
Corporate Affairs
Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Direct Tel: 01 2054826
agendamtgs@dlrcoco.ie

Stephen Donnelly,
Minister for Health,
Block 1 Miesian Plaza,
50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 XW14

30th April 2021

Dear Minister,

I wish to advise you that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council at their meeting held on 28th April 2021 adopted the following resolution:

"That Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely;

1. Access to Free Travel.
2. Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy.

The Motion to be then sent to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Education, and to other Local Authorities for correspondence purposes."

I would appreciate your comments in this regard.

Yours sincerely



Leonora Earls
A/Director of Service
Corporate Affairs