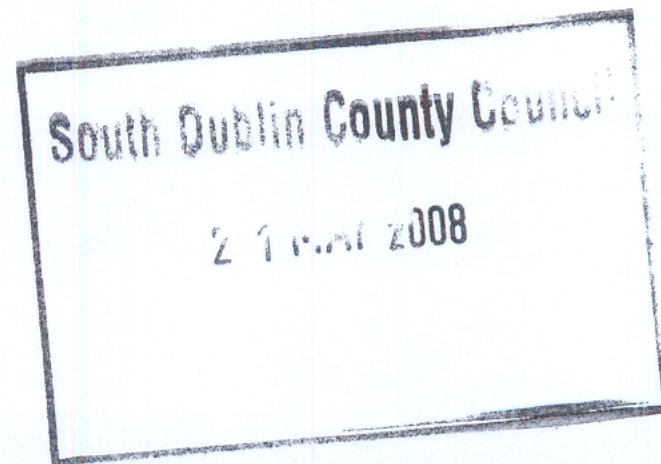




20 May 2008

Mr Terry Fallon
Corporate Services
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Dear Mr Fallon

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Mr Barry Andrews T.D., has asked me to reply to your letter in relation to the charging of rates on childcare facilities.

The issue of local authority commercial rates comes within the remit of the Department of Finance, which has responsibility for fiscal policy, and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, which has responsibility for the local authorities.

Local authorities are obliged to collect rates on any property that is entered on the valuation lists and which is used for commercial purposes. Valuation lists are prepared by the independent Valuation Office in accordance with the Valuation Act 2001.

Under the Valuation Act 2001, which comes under the remit of the Minister for Finance, childcare facilities are subject to local authority rates, with the only relevant provision for exemption being in respect of childcare facilities operated exclusively for charitable purposes by charitable organisations.

The Minister and his officials have raised the issue of rates on childcare facilities with the Department of Finance on a number of occasions and also recently with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and have been advised that there are presently no plans to provide for special treatment for childcare facilities under the current legislation. I would suggest that you raise this issue with the aforesaid Departments whose Ministers have direct responsibility for policy in this area.

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge

Office of the Minister for Children

Hawkins House Dublin 2
Teach Haicin Baile Átha Cliath 2

Tel (01) 671 8142

Fax (01) 671 8985

Email omc@health.gov.ie

Web www.omc.gov.ie

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Sinead Cullen

Sinead Cullen

Private Secretary to Minister for Children and Youth Affairs,

Mr Barry Andrews, T.D.