



Ár dTag/ Our Ref: 106/2010/SdB/SOL
Do thag/ Your ref: M1/0410

17 May 2010

Ms Mary Maguire
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Dear Ms Maguire,

I refer to your letter of 13 April to An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen T.D., regarding a motion that was passed at the South Dublin County Council meeting of the 12th April calling for the reinstatement of a Minister with sole responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy. The correspondence has been referred to me for direct reply.

The Government remains fully committed to addressing the drugs problem and I believe that my appointment as a Minister - with direct responsibility in this area - will facilitate the implementation of the Strategy in a timely and co-ordinated fashion. Indeed, many people have called for some time for the Minister with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy to be a member of the Government, with a seat at Cabinet.

During my previous period as Minister for State with responsibility for this area, significant steps forward were made in the drugs area. From my experience on the ground at that time, I am very familiar with the ongoing issues in terms of the drugs problem in communities and the initiatives being taken to address them.

I acknowledge the excellent work done by my colleague, Mr John Curran, T.D., while he was Minister of State, in driving the finalisation of the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016, the implementation of which is being pursued vigorously across a range of Departments and agencies. I fully intend to build on this work and I believe that the structures now in place under the Strategy will better facilitate me to effectively fulfil that role.

I can assure you that the Government remains fully committed to addressing the drugs problem and to the continuation of the partnership approach involved with communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "C".

**Pat Carey, T.D.,
Minister for Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs**