



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais
agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Community, Equality
and Gaeltacht Affairs

Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

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Déan tagairt don uimhir tagartha ar gach comhfhreagras
Please quote our reference number on all correspondence

**Ms Mary Maguire,
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall,
Tallaght
Dublin 24**

Dear Ms Maguire,

I refer further to your correspondence of 15th January 2010 to Mr. John Curran when he was Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drug Strategy at the then Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Your correspondence concerned cuts to mainstream funding under the then Department of Education and Science - cuts in the Education Budget and its implication on drug awareness projects – and is now being responded to from the Office of Minister Pat Carey.

Minister Carey has been advised that the Department of Education & Skills, arising from Budget 2010, decided on reducing funding to certain mainstream projects and in some cases, reduces funding fully in 2011. However, he is aware that the Department undertook a review of the implications of this decision for the individual projects concerned.

Following the review, the Minister understands that the Department of Education & Skills will administer some projects directly in 2011. Some projects will be funded in 2011 on their merging with the School Completion Programme of the Department of Education & Skills. Some projects have been transferred to the Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs who now has responsibility for funding in 2011 and the VEC will administer some projects for the Department of Education & Skills. However, there are some projects which the VEC did not select for funding, given the reduction in overall funding.

The Minister acknowledges the difficulties that funding decisions entail for projects but the prevailing financial position means that priorities need to be identified and difficult decisions need to be made by all, including his colleague, the Minister for Education & Skills and the agencies under his remit.

The Minister apologises for the long delay in replying but he was not in a position to advise you on developments until the Department of Education and Skills fully completed its examination of all its mainstreamed projects, final decisions were made and until he was at liberty to disclose the information.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely,



Colm Ó Laoghóg

Private Secretary to Pat Carey T.D.

Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs