

Mr. Alan Shatter T. D.
Minister for Defence
Office of the Minister for Defence
Parkgate
Infirmary Road
Dublin 7

23rd June 2011

Dear Minister Shatter,

Re: Clarification in Relation to Proposed Protocol Regarding Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell

I refer to a letter dated 17/02/11 from Minister Eamonn O'Cuiv T.D. outlining Government policy in relation to Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell. I also refer to your letter dated 11/04/11 in which you confirm that the contents of Minister O'Cuiv's letter accurately reflect the Departmental position on the matter.

These correspondences were in response to a letter from the Council updating the Department of Defence on adopted Development Plan policy in relation to Casement Aerodrome.

The letter dated 17/02/11 stated that the Department is prepared to discuss an *'agreed written protocol'* subject to strict conditions including that:

- set criteria would be adhered to in all circumstances with no possible deviation
- discussions would only be conducted between officials of the Department and officials of South Dublin County Council
- no third parties would be allowed to participate nor be advised of the content of any protocol until it is finalised.

Elected Members of South Dublin County Council have been briefed on the above points at the June meeting of Council and having considered the correspondence, requested that contact be made with your Department in order to emphasise :

- the statutory role of the Elected Members in the adoption of the County Development Plan and any further variations to it, and
- accordingly, that agreement of a protocol would require the formal approval of the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council given its potential effect on Development Plan policy.

The members also requested further details on the potential scope of the proposed protocol as envisaged by the Department.

I should be obliged for your Departments comments on the above for the members further consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Nevin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Frank Nevin
Director of Land Use, Economic and Transport Planning