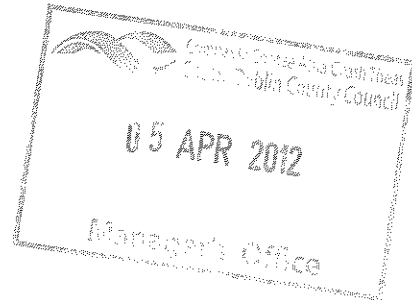




Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

3 April, 2012.

Ms. Mary Maguire,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Town Centre,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.



RE: REP391/JOS/12

Dear Ms. Maguire,

The Minister for Housing & Planning, Ms. Jan O'Sullivan, T.D has asked me to refer further to your letter of 2 March 2012 concerning the South Dublin County Council mainstreamed drugs projects and the attached motions which have been noted.

As part of the Government's Comprehensive Review of Expenditure and the 2012 estimates process, difficult decisions had to be taken in relation to prioritising funding for core services in all programme areas. The provisional funding estimate to support the mainstreamed drugs projects under the Department's Housing programme for 2012 was reduced by 75%. In view of this, it is not possible to continue funding the projects concerned throughout 2012. It was agreed that pro rata funding will be provided to support the projects to 30 June 2012, while a consultation process was pursued between the projects, the Council and other bodies to explore alternative funding mechanisms for the projects for 2012 and beyond.



As you will be aware, South Dublin County Council has been leading the consultation process with the projects in question and has had extensive engagement with interested parties with regard to potential future funding arrangements, including through the examination of the potential for maintaining the projects within the Council's overall housing management functions. The ongoing sustainability of the projects should be determined in the context of the reprioritisation and/or modification of key services within available resources and in the context of the 2012 budgets for the relevant local drugs task forces.

More broadly, in the context of a public funding provision of €260 million for drugs programmes across all Departments and agencies in 2011, the Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy is currently undertaking a review of the structures that underpin the National Drugs Strategy at local, regional and national level, including how the current funding structures can be improved or streamlined, particularly in relation to local and regional drugs task forces. It is anticipated that the outcome of the review of Drugs Task Forces, which is expected shortly, will assist in clarifying the position on the most appropriate funding mechanism for community based drugs projects.

Yours sincerely,



Aisling Glynn
Private Secretary