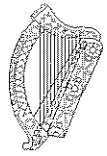




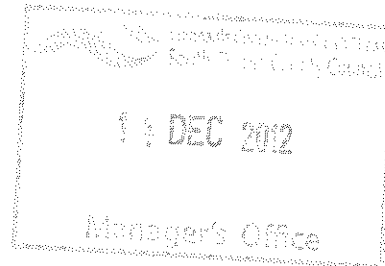
Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

12 December, 2012.

Ms. Emer O'Gorman,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24



RE: REP6772/PH/12

Dear Ms. O'Gorman,

I have been asked by Mr Phil Hogan, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to refer to your letter of 19th November regarding the reduction in General Purpose Grants Q3 as a result of the shortfall in household charge collections.

A deduction of €475,210 was made to South Dublin County Council's Q3 allocation in July. This adjustment was based on the level of compliance of 55% achieved at that date. The deduction amounted to **25%** of the potential adjustment of €1,900,842.

A further €84,820 was deducted in Tranche 2 of the Q4 payment in November. This represents a deduction of 0.5% of the initial allocation, based on a compliance level of 63.6%. The overall deductions represent 3.3% of South Dublin County Council's 2012 allocation of €16,963,904.


The Minister welcomes the increasing level of household charge compliance nationally and urges South Dublin County Council, in conjunction with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), to continue their efforts to collect the household charge in its administrative area. The final amount of general purpose grants available for 2012 will be revisited and reviewed at end year to take account of the financial position at that stage, including progress on securing an increased household charge yield. Any recoupment of the quarter 4 reduction for will be made in early 2013.

In developing the approach to Q3 and 4 payments of the General Purpose Grant the Minister had regard to the overall level of funding available in the Local Government Fund, the improving level of household charge compliance, the financial resilience of local authorities and the objective of providing requisite funding to authorities to enable the provision of a reasonable level of service to their communities.



The income generated from the household charge will be kept under constant review. However, it is up to individual local authorities to address any potential funding shortfalls arising from non-compliance with the legislation and to pursue those who may have a liability and initiate court proceedings, where it is considered appropriate. It is a matter for local authorities, including South Dublin County Council to use their local knowledge to follow-up on non-compliant households in order to maximise collection of the charge and the information available from the data-sharing exercises underway centrally to identify households that may be liable to pay the household charge.

Yours sincerely,


Eddie Kiernan,
Private Secretary