

Comhairle Contae Liatroma Leitrim County Council

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24th May 2013

Mr Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Department of the Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, 23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Re: National Heritage Areas

Dear Minister Deenihan,

I wish to inform you that at the May meeting of Leitrim County Council the Members unanimously passed the following resolution:-

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD, who's Department has responsibility for the National Heritage Areas (N.H.A. areas), to revisit the issue of a blanket ban on turf cutting in those affected areas with a view to amending the legalisation so as to allow bog owners and turf cutters the right to continue to harvest turf as their main source of fuel. There are 4 NHAs in Leitrim which will be directly affected by the ban - the areas are Cashel Bog, Corracramph Bog, Cloonageeher Bog and the bogs along the Rinn River - there are a further 2 NHAs which straddle the Leitrim / Longford border - Aghnamona Bog and Wooddown Bog - which will also be affected by the ban. The ban, which is due to come into effect at the end of 2013, would result in an almost total cessation of turf cutting in the South Leitrim area and will cause a lot of anger within communities who have been harvesting turf on their bogs for generations."

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Aideen McGovern Meetings Administrator