




*Oifig an Aire Scileanna, Taighde agus Nuálaíochta*  
Office of the Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation

Our Ref: MS 523/14

Your Ref: SM3/0714

Mr Tom O'Neill  
Meetings Administrator, Corporate Performance & Change Management  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

 August 2014

Dear Mr O'Neill,

Your recent letter on behalf of South Dublin County Council in relation to St. Dominic's VTOS Centre, Tallaght refers.

Under the legislation providing for the establishment of Education and Training Boards (ETBs), they are independent, autonomous entities with resources to deliver educational opportunities within their regions to the highest standard.

VTOS places are allocated to Education and Training Boards (ETBs) on an annual basis and it is a matter for ETBs to allocate those places to centres under their remit. Following the amalgamation of the former Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Vocational Educational Committees (VECs), the establishment of the Dublin Dun Laoghaire ETB and the merger of the former FÁS services the ETB carried out a review of the provision of its Adult Education services.

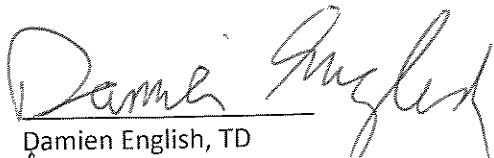
During this review it became apparent that while Tallaght and the surrounding area had 120 approved VTOS places, in addition to the Tallaght Training Centre (formerly operated by FÁS), Balbriggan, a rapidly growing area with high unemployment, only had 20. The ETB then made the decision to increase the available places in Balbriggan by 20 places and to make 100 places available for the Tallaght area.

ETBs are expected to manage their resources to provide the best service for all areas under their remit and this will lead to changes in provision in particular areas from time to time.

I trust this clarifies the matter for you.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

  
Damien English, TD  
Minister for Skills, Research & Innovation

