



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

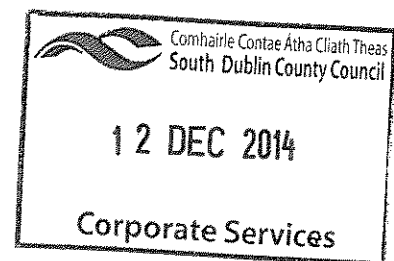


Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

MS/1014

11th December, 2014.

Mr. Tom O'Neill,
Meetings Administrator,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.



RE: REP1700/AK/14

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I have been asked by Mr. Alan Kelly, T.D, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, to refer to your letter in connection with litter and requesting a review be conducted of the Litter Pollution Acts.

The role of this Department is to provide the legislative framework within which to combat litter pollution and as necessary to motivate and energise local authority action on litter. In this regard, the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009 provide the statutory framework to combat the litter problem. Under the Acts, the primary management and enforcement response to littering falls under the remit of local authorities.

As you are aware, local authorities are independent statutory bodies, with democratically elected councils and their own management system and as such, it is a matter for each of them to determine the most appropriate public awareness, enforcement and clean up actions in relation to litter, taking account of their own local circumstances and priorities. Local authorities under the Litter Pollution Acts are required to have in place their own litter management plan which can be tailored uniquely to the needs of each local authority functional area. It is a matter for each local authority council and management officials to determine how best to tailor the plan to meet their specific requirements.

In 2012, in terms of enforcement action, over 12,000 litter fines were issued by local authorities and local authorities spent approx. €92 million nationally on litter control and prevention. The latest figures from the Department's own National Litter Pollution Monitoring System show that the litter situation is continuing to improve across the country. Further details of the System are available on www.litter.ie



The Minister encourages a multi-faceted approach to tackling the litter problem, incorporating enforcement, public awareness and education. The Department supports several anti-litter initiatives to combat litter in Ireland including:

- National Spring Clean
- Green Schools Program
- Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) – Litter League
- Tidy Towns
- Local Authority Anti-Litter Awareness Grants
- Negotiated Agreement with the Banking and Chewing Gum industries.

While the Minister believes that the legislative provisions currently in place under the Litter Pollution Acts are sufficient to deal with the litter situation when enforced, any specific suggestions for improvement of the Act would be welcomed and would be considered in the light of future reviews of the legislation.

On behalf of the Minister I would like to thank you for your correspondence on this matter.

Yours sincerely,


Larry Kelly,
Private Secretary