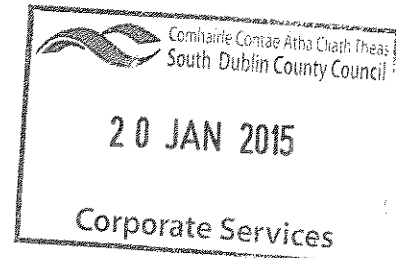


OFÍG AN AIRE STÁIT AG AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

M1/1114

Mr Tom O'Neill
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Ref: 1217153621

15 January 2015

Re: Council motion passed on section 37.1 Equality Act 1998

Dear Mr O'Neill

Mr Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD, Minister of State for New Communities, Culture and Equality has asked me to reply to your letter dated 15th December, 2014 regarding the text of a motion passed recently by South Dublin County Council on section 37.1 of the Employment Equality Act 1998.

While not specific to them, the Minister of State accepts that section 37.1 impacts particularly on LGBT people and its provision has operated in a way that is not a fair balancing on the right to freedom on the one hand, and the rights of persons to non-discrimination in employment on the other.

As announced previously, the Government accepts the principle of the Employment Equality (Amendment) (No.2) bill currently before the Seanad to better balance the right of employees to protection in this area and will be tabling a number of amendments to improve this Private Member's Bill when the debate resumes in the new year.

Yours sincerely,

Gerard Madden
Private Secretary to the Minister of State for
New Communities, Culture and Equality