

8th April 2015

Deputy Frances Fitzgerald, TD
Minister for Justice and Equality
Department of Justice and Equality
94 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

REF: 43309

RE: Clondalkin Area Committee Meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 1st April 2015

Dear Minister,

At the meeting of the Clondalkin Area Committee held on the 1st April 2015 the following motion was passed by the Members:

“Given on-going concerns that this Committee asks for an update from the Minister on the situation regarding the Towers and the system that is called Direct Provision that is being carried out within the Towers , also that the Minister for Equality, Justice and Law Reform arrange for an inspector to do a full report on quality of life within the Towers and update the committee on when this system will be changed as a matter of urgency, also to make a report on the current status of people living there i.e. how many ? how long? and current asylum status?”

I would be obliged for your comments and response as soon as possible to enable me to revert to the Committee.

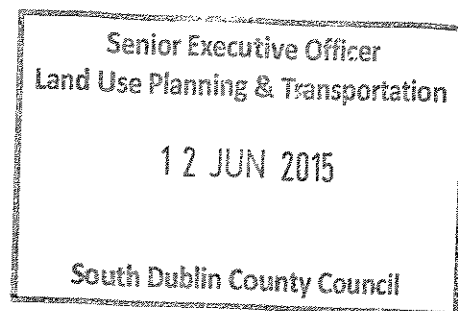
Yours sincerely,

Edel Colgan
Senior Staff Officer



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

Ms. Edel Colgan
Senior Staff Officer
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Minister Reference: 0409153759

/O June, 2015

Dear Ms. Colgan,

I am directed by the Minister for Justice and Equality to refer to your letter dated 8 April 2015 and to previous related correspondence of 30 October 2014 regarding the concerns of members of the South Dublin County Council with regard to the Towers Direct Provision Centre and the Direct Provision system in general.

As previously advised, the Government made a number of commitments to improve the asylum and Direct Provision system in Ireland including the establishment of an Independent Working Group to report to Government on improvements with the Protection process, including direct provision and supports for asylum seekers.

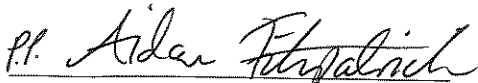
The Working Group developed a working programme early on and established three sub-groups to deal with the specific issues of conditions within centres; supports for asylum seekers; and improvements in the processing of protection applications. The Government recognises that the issues to be examined by the Working Group are complex and require thorough consideration to ensure that any recommendations are practical and sustainable from a budgetary perspective and do not undermine existing border controls and immigration policies.

I understand that the Working Group has completed its deliberations and a report with recommendations is due to be submitted to the Minister in the coming weeks.

There are currently 4,400 residents in 34 direct provision accommodation centres throughout the country. The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA), a functional unit of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service of this Department, has responsibility for the administration of the Direct Provision system. It is the policy of RIA to arrange for unannounced independent inspections each year in each of the centres under contract to it. Completed inspection reports on RIA centres, carried

out since October 2013, including the Towers Centre, Clondalkin, have been published on RIA's website - www.ria.gov.ie. All centres are also open to inspection by Environmental Health Officers of the HSE and by other statutory bodies. RIA keeps the services provided at direct provision centres under continuous review and seeks to adapt and improve conditions in centres for the benefit of residents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.P. Aiden Fitzpatrick".

Christopher Quattrocchi
Private Secretary to the Minister
for Justice and Equality