



An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of  
Children and Youth Affairs

Oifig an Aire  
Office of the  
Minister

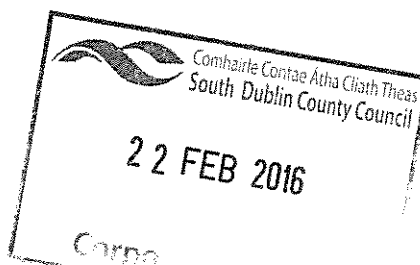


M01/1015

19

February, 2016

Mr Tom O'Neill  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24



Dear Mr O'Neill

Thank you for your letter concerning the Cuan Álainn Centre in Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Minister Reilly facilitated a meeting with Respond Housing Association in November last year to get an account of the nature of the service provided at Cuan Álainn, the reasons behind Responds decision to close the service, and to get a better understanding of Respond's previous interaction with state bodies in relation to the Centre.

The Centre, in the main, provided second stage residential accommodation for persons whose emergency needs arising from domestic violence were met.

Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, in discharging its statutory responsibility, funds emergency refuge services for adults and children fleeing domestic violence, as well as providing a range of ongoing community supports. Tusla will continue to provide such supports in the future.

At the meeting, Respond outlined how it decided to build the Cuan Álainn Centre on foot of its own needs analysis, which determined that the area did not need another domestic violence refuge, but there was a need for move-on accommodation for those using emergency refuges.

In general, the Centre provides transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence after their emergency needs have been met. The majority of referrals to the Centre were from existing domestic violence refuges already funded by Tusla.

Each of the families at the Centre had housing needs, and these are best provided through mainstream housing supports via local authorities.

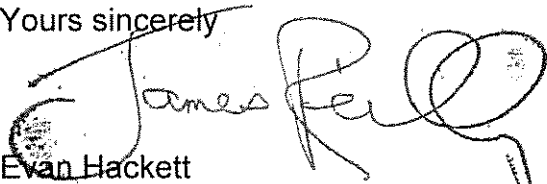
Respond informed Minister Reilly that it was not accepting any new referrals to Cuan Álainn. At the time of the Minister's meeting with Respond last November, there were five families in residence at the Centre. Permanent accommodation has now been secured for these families. Respond intends to re purpose the existing accommodation at Cuan Álainn for other use.

Minister Reilly also contacted the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government to establish what could be done to assist the families involved, particularly in light of the housing needs of the families who had resided at the Cuan Álainn Centre. The Minister also asked Minister Kelly to ensure that the relevant local authorities engaged with Respond in regard to services.

The Minister has asked me to assure you that Tusla will continue to work closely with these families by providing appropriate community supports.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Reilly', with a large, stylized 'R'.

Evan Hackett

Private Secretary to Minister James Reilly