

10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

Our Ref: January 17-21/CG/MMcI

Mr. Michael Creed, T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Dear Minister,

At the January monthly meeting of the Council the members passed the following resolution:

"I propose that Clare County Council request the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to introduce a financial aid compensation package for the grain sector due to the huge financial losses incurred during the disastrous weather of the 2016 harvest. Growers were unable to salvage crops in time due to excessive rainfall. This in turn caused high moistures halting harvesting resulting in seed loss from the head. Eventually heads fell to the ground with the over ripening of the crop, before it could be harvested. Moisture readings ranged from 20 to 35%. Over 50% of the straw melted in the field causing even more loss of earnings. When the moisture is over 20% the grower is heavily penalised by the buyer.

This sector has been in serious trouble for the last 4 years due to poor prices (below the cost of production). Help is urgently required to help keep these growers in business".

The Council would appreciate a reply in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Greene,

Senior Executive Officer,

Corporate Services.

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha Áras Contae an Chláir, Bothar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir Corporate Services Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare











