



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

30 March 2017

Colm Murphy,
Meetings Administrator,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.



Your ref: SM01/0217
Our ref: REP682/SC/17

Dear Mr Murphy,

I refer to your letter of the 6th of March 2017 concerning the suspensory motion agreed at the February meeting of South Dublin County Council. Minister Coveney has asked that I respond on his behalf to the views expressed by the members on the planned introduction of a new municipal district members' allowance from 1 July 2017

The changes to financial supports announced by the Minister in January are a response to the increased workload experienced by elected members arising from the local government reforms of 2014. The municipal district members allowance is being introduced in areas that now have municipal districts following the abolition of Borough and Town Councils, as a result of which there was a substantial 41% decrease in overall numbers of elected members (from 1,627 to 949). These reductions were wholly concentrated in local authorities that now have municipal districts with consequent increased demands on elected members in these areas.

Given that there are no municipal district structures in South Dublin and that the overall number of elected members has not decreased there, the Minister regrets that the same rationale cannot be applied to provide for an additional allowance for its members. However, elected members in South Dublin will benefit from being able to avail of a new option for a vouched expense allowance of up to €5,000 per annum in place of the unvouched expense allowance of between €2,286 to €2,667 that currently applies.

The motion passed by the elected members of South Dublin County Council, and the views expressed therein, have been noted.

Yours sincerely,


Niamh Redmond,
Private Secretary

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