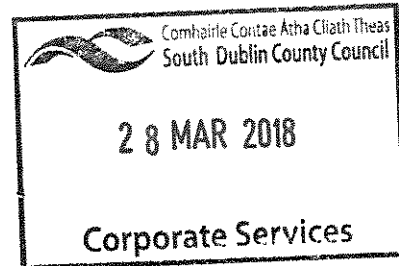


OIFIG AN TÁNAISTE  
AIRE GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA  
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2  
D02 VY53



OFFICE OF THE TÁNAISTE  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE  
DUBLIN 2  
D02 VY53

Mr. Colm Murphy  
Administrative Officer  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24



26 March 2018

Our Ref: IUKA180068  
Your Ref: M05/1117

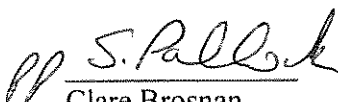
Dear Mr. Murphy,

Thank you for your email regarding Brendan McConville and John Paul Wootton addressed to the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Simon Coveney T.D., who has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade continue to monitor the situation in Northern Ireland regarding justice and prison matters. Departmental officials are aware of this case and the campaign in relation to it. Mr McConville and Mr Wootton were convicted of the murder of PC Stephen Carroll in March 2012. Both Mr McConville and Mr Wootton brought unsuccessful appeals against the verdicts. They are both currently serving their sentences as adjudicated.

Prison issues in Northern Ireland, in particular those which affect prisoners in separated accommodation, are an ongoing feature of engagements between officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Justice, the Northern Ireland Office, the Northern Ireland Prison Service, the Criminal Justice Inspectorate and the Prisoner Ombudsman on these and other matters.

Yours sincerely,

  
Clare Brosnan  
Private Secretary