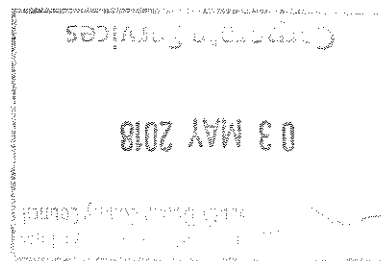




Our ref: 18/0677/MF

30 April 2018

Mr Colm Murphy
Meetings Administrator
South Dublin County Council
Council Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Dear Mr Murphy,

The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr Paschal Donohoe TD, has asked me to refer to your representation received on the 23rd March, concerning South Dublin County Council's agreed Motion, which was forwarded for attention and reply.

The Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers (Tax Concessions) Scheme provides relief from VAT and VRT (up to a certain limit) on the purchase of an adapted car for transport of a person with specific severe and permanent physical disabilities, payment of a fuel grant, and an exemption from Motor Tax.

To qualify for the Scheme an applicant must be in possession of a Primary Medical Certificate. To qualify for a Primary Medical Certificate, an applicant must be permanently and severely disabled within the terms of the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers (Tax Concessions) Regulations 1994.

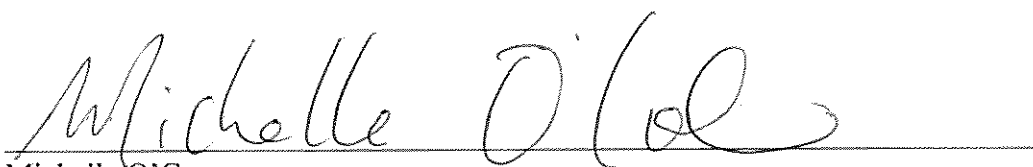
The Minister recognises the important role that the Scheme plays in expanding the mobility of citizens with disabilities. From time to time the Minister receives representations from individuals who feel they would benefit from the Scheme but do not qualify under the medical criteria. While the Minister has sympathy for these cases, given the scale and scope of the Scheme, the Minister has no plans to expand the medical criteria at this time.

However, the Minister would like to point out that the Government's legislative programme for 2018 includes the Health (Transport Support) Bill which provides for a Transport Support Scheme to make individual payments as a contribution towards transport costs to persons with severe disabilities on a low income who cannot access public transport. The legislation is being brought forward by the Minister for Health. Persons who do not meet the medical criteria

for the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme may qualify for the proposed Transport Support Scheme.

In addition, the criteria under which a charitable organisation can access the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers scheme, were recently amended to further widen access to the Scheme for charitable organisations. This may be of interest to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michelle O'Connor", written over a horizontal line.

Michelle O'Connor

Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform