



§ July 2021

Ms. Miriam Reilly,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

Email: msomers@SDUBLINCOCO.ie

RE: HPLG-MOBO-01398-2021

Dear Ms. Reilly,

I refer to your correspondence (your ref.: M08/0421) of 27 April 2021 to Mr Michael McGrath TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, relating to a motion of South Dublin County Council regarding a directly elected mayor for Dublin, which has been forwarded to Mr Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, for direct reply.

The Minister has asked me to advise you that the *Programme for Government – Our Shared Future* contains a commitment to “Establish in 2021 a Citizens’ Assembly to consider the type of directly elected mayor and local government structures best suited for Dublin”.

The Department of An Taoiseach will be responsible for establishing the Citizens’ Assembly, including its scheduling and methodology.

The commitment to establish a citizens’ assembly to consider local government structures and a directly elected mayor for Dublin is recognition that the matter is a complex one, particularly given that Dublin currently has four local authorities.

A range of vital issues will be required to be considered, among them governance and accountability structures, the powers and functions to be held by a mayor of Dublin, the geographic area for which the mayor would be responsible, and the role of mayor in the future strategic and spatial development of the city.

The decision on whether to hold a plebiscite will be a matter for Government following the outcome of the Assembly’s deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond
Private Secretary