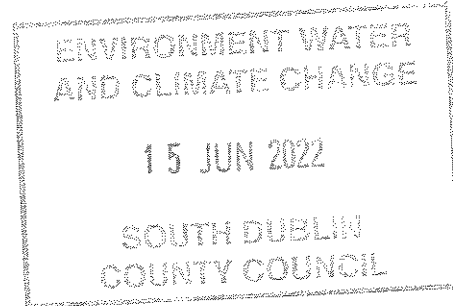




10th June 2022

Ms. Sharon Conroy
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Reference No: DAFM-MMO-01140-2022

Dear Ms. Conroy,

I refer to your recent correspondence addressed to Charlie McConalogue T.D., Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine regarding support for Clondalkin Equine Club.

The Department are fully committed to supporting sustainable, One Health, One Welfare initiatives in line with the Programme for Government and Working Together for Animal Welfare, Ireland's Animal Welfare Strategy 2021-2025.

The Department continues to support a number of urban horse projects nationwide. In line with the Strategy, the Department's focus is on supporting start-up infrastructure costs as well as initiatives that bring education on all aspects relating to equine welfare to areas dealing with urban horse challenges.

The Department is committed to working with local authorities, charities, and community stakeholders in supporting urban horse welfare programmes, in particular in the context of facilities and education programmes.

Clondalkin Equine Centre is an important example of this activity and the Department has shown considerable commitment through the provision of the largest capital outlay in support of an urban horse programme in support of Clondalkin Equine Club. €503,000 was provided to South Dublin County Council in 2016 for the development of the Club's infrastructure. This funding was committed on the understanding that that the Club, when up and running, would be self-sustaining. It was made clear, to both the Council and the Club that, following the investment in infrastructure, funding would not be available for the day-to-day running of the Club going forward. Funding under the terms of the Urban Horse Projects is limited to the provision of education courses and infrastructure.

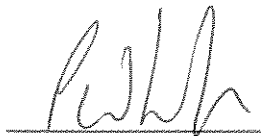
However, to assist with the initial sustainability of the project, the Department worked with the Club and the local authority towards the hiring of a development manager, responsible for the further development of the club. This agreement was subject to the Club agreeing further efforts to secure alternative funding.

Last year, following further representations from the Club Board and meetings with the Board and management, the Department agreed to provide a final tranche of short-term funding to the project through the Council.

To date, the Department has committed over €585,000 to the Project. In addition, officials from the Department have worked with the Club, South Dublin County Council and Government agencies in attempting to source funding for the Club.

The Department are pleased that discussions between the Club Board and the Council are continuing. The Department understands that the Club has agreed to work with the Council to review its business model and governance structure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Whelan', written over a horizontal line.

Paul Whelan
Private Secretary