Ms. Sharon Conroy

[info@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:info@sdublincoco.ie)

30th July 2025

**Minister’s Reference: DJE-MO-08179-2025**

Dear Ms. Conroy,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O’Callaghan. I am responding to you on behalf of the Minister.

Providing reception conditions – accommodation and other basic supports – to people seeking international protection is part of Irish and EU law.

The State is currently accommodating almost 33,000 people in over 320 International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) centres around the country, almost 9,500 of whom are children with their families.

The [Comprehensive Accommodation Strategy for IP applicants](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.gov.ie%2F288978%2F3e46c1ca-39d9-41c5-974a-b5c14af16031.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CConeill%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7C7946257de9b54378a10c08dddeffdb73%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C638911912703416053%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=o60%2Bx7HhWIEPjIpn26QkKoTN161Yhc5a%2FeYkshpCUBo%3D&reserved=0), published in 2024, supports the move away from full reliance on private providers and towards a core of State-owned accommodation, delivering 14,000 State-owned beds by 2028. This will need to be supplemented, as required, by high standard commercial providers.

The multi-strand approach focuses on both increasing State-owned permanent capacity, and upgrading additional contingency accommodation, developed to specific national standards.

On 17 June 2025, the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan, secured Cabinet approval for the State purchase of the Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre for international protection accommodation.

The purchase of the site is a key part of the Government’s strategy to develop a stable and sustainable accommodation system for people seeking international protection, moving away from commercial and toward State-owned centres.

The site, already being used for both international protection and Ukraine accommodation, currently has capacity to accommodate approximately 2,300 people between the hotel and the Convention Centre.

The State has been leasing the site since 2020, first as part of the COVID-19 response and then since 2022 as a transit hub and accommodation centre for both people fleeing the war in Ukraine and people seeking international protection

While the purchase price remains commercially sensitive until the sale is completed, purchasing Citywest should save the State over €1 billion over 25 years, when compared to leasing the site for the same period.

Following the purchase, the Department will put a transition plan in place with the current service provider for a period of 12 months to ensure there is no disruption to the accommodation services at the site. The service provider will continue to oversee the management and provision of services including catering, cleaning, maintenance and security, resident check in, operational support, finance and other services.

There are no immediate plans to increase capacity at the site as part of the purchase.

The Department is also in ongoing discussions to ensure the leisure centre on the site remains open to the public following the purchase. The leisure centre has approximately 3,000 members and is a valuable amenity in the local community.

Yours sincerely,

Jim O’Callaghan T.D.

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration