



28 July 2026

Ms Brenda Shannon
Meetings Administrator
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
D24 A3XC



Reference Number: DOT-TM25-02252-2026

Dear Ms Shannon

I refer to your correspondence of 15 July to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D., on behalf of South Dublin County Council regarding a Motion agreed at the Council's July meeting.

The Government respects and affirms everyone's right on this island to make the case for the constitutional future for Northern Ireland they wish to see. In the event of a future referendum within the consent provisions of the Agreement, the Government would make all necessary preparations in accordance with the Constitution and the procedures of the Agreement.

The Programme for Government affirms the Government's commitment to the unity of the Irish people, and to a sustained focus on and investment in reconciliation, developing the three sets of relationships recognised in the Good Friday Agreement to unlock the full potential of our island.



On this basis, this Government's approach has focused on supporting the operation of the Good Friday Agreement political institutions; implementation of the Shared Island Initiative; addressing the legacy of the Troubles; and, promoting reconciliation. Crucial also is work to strengthen relations with Britain, through the UK-Ireland reset and the delivery of commitments made at the Summits in March 2025 and 2026.

Through programmes such as the Shared Island Initiative, the Government is moving forward with the vital task of building a lasting reconciliation between all communities on this island. This is backed by the Government's Shared Island Fund, now a €2 billion commitment out to 2035. On 23 June, the Government approved further allocations of almost €380 million from the Shared Island Fund for 12 new projects to be delivered as part of the Initiative over 2027-2030.

This includes contributions to rail infrastructure investment (€193m), continuation of the Dublin-Belfast hourly frequency rail service (€35m), an offshore renewable energy ports development scheme (€40m), industrial sustainability challenge fund (€20m), early learning skills and settings investment (€13.5m) and a digital creative industries innovation programme (€10m) with all projects to include, benefit and better connect both jurisdictions on the island.

With over €1 billion now allocated from the Fund to nearly 50 projects and programmes, the Government is taking sustained, strategic action and investment to improve people's lives and strengthen connections across the island of Ireland for our shared future.

On 29 June, the Taoiseach, at the fifth Shared Island Forum set out how the Shared Home Place programme is contributing to deeper island-wide civic discussion on crucial dimensions of the island's heritage, society today and shared future. This participative initiative is inviting people from across the island and beyond to explore what a Shared Home Place means to us now and in the context of building a shared future, with programmes delivered by the Heritage Council, National Cultural Institutions, through Coimisiún na Meán and with our Diaspora through Ireland's network of Embassies and Consulates abroad.



The programme is engaging with and highlighting the contributions of all traditions across the island of Ireland, including with Irish, British, Anglo-Irish and Ulster-Scots traditions, recognising how these are an integral part of the heritage of every county today and crucial to how we approach and build our future.

Yours sincerely

Amy Mahon

Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach