

CORRESPONDENCE

**MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
ADARE-RATHKEALE**

APRIL, 2017

- Letter received on 20th March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in response to Motion by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale calling for the hedge cutting period covered by Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 to be altered.
- Letter received on 23rd March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine concerning flood defences at Ballysteen, Co. Limerick.
- Letter received on 30th March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to Members opposition to the introduction of the equivalent of an NCT test for farm tractors.



*An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs*

*Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister*

Mr Tom O'Callaghan
Meetings Administrator
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick

15 March 2017

Our Ref: 16/002610



Dear Mr O'Callaghan,

I refer to your correspondence to Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, in relation to the provisions in the Heritage Bill 2016 relating to hedge cutting.

I should point out that Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts, prohibits the cutting, grubbing, burning or destruction of vegetation, with certain strict exemptions, from 1 March to 31 August.

Following a review of Section 40, which involved, inter alia, consideration of submissions from interested parties, the Minister announced proposals in December 2015 to introduce legislation to allow for managed hedge cutting and burning at certain times within the existing closed period on a pilot two year basis. The legislation required to allow for these pilot measures is included in the Heritage Bill 2016, which was published in January 2016.

The Minister recognises that hedgerows are a very important wildlife habitat, providing food, shelter, corridors of movement, nest and hibernation sites for many of our native flora and fauna. The change in timing of cutting set out in the Heritage Bill will not interfere with any of these functions. The Regulations that the Minister will make to give effect to the provisions will require that any hedge trimming in the month of August may only take place on roadsides or on land where reseeding/tillage is being carried out. Furthermore the trimming may only be of the current year's growth and should not involve the use of heavy flails. If a person needs to carry out heavier cutting of hedges, such as grubbing and flailing, they must do so during the existing permitted period between September and the end of February. The Bill is not about widespread cutting of hedges and instead strikes an appropriate balance between protecting our wildlife and allowing for light trimming of hedges in certain instances only.

The Bill is currently at Committee Stage in Seanad Éireann. In the meantime, the existing provisions relating to Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts remain in force.

Yours sincerely,


Nessa Foley
Private Secretary

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Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2.

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

22 March 2017

Mr Tom O'Callaghan
Meeting Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Co Limerick



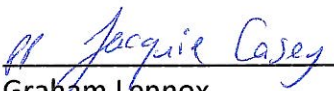
Our Ref: 2016/56807N

Dear Mr O'Callaghan

I refer to your further correspondence addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, TD concerning flood defences at Ballysteen, Co Limerick.

Given that the Public Trustee no longer holds any funds for the upkeep of the embankment at Ballycanauna, it therefore has no role in respect of any works carried out at the site.

Yours sincerely


Graham Lennox
Private Secretary



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport



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29 March 2017

Our Ref: SR/17/16421

Mr Tom O'Callaghan
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Merchants Quay
Limerick



Dear Mr. O'Callaghan

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Shane Ross, T.D., I wish to thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2017 regarding NCT for tractors, the contents of which have been noted.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Smith
Private Secretary to Minister Ross

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015
(details available on www.lobbying.ie)*