



Report to the Protocol & Selection Committee for noting and referral to the City Council

Councillor Name	Mary Freehill
Conference/Seminar Name	MacGill Summer School
Conference/Seminar Topic	The Future of Ireland in a New Europe: The Challenges Ahead?
Venue/Location	Glenties Co Donegal
Date (s) of Conference	22 July to Friday 27 th July. I attended from evening of 24 th to end on 27 th

Brief Summary

I attended the following lectures. 8.30p.m. on 24th regarding **our corporate tax system**- the different conditions for FDI and indigenous workers was emphasized.

Wednesday 25th 11.0a.m. **Cervical Check issue** - lack of transparency and putting the patent first main points 2.30 **General election crystal ball gazing**. 8.30p.m. **health system** mainly same as above

Thursday 26th **Catholic Church in Ireland** Mainly the high age levels of clergy, opposition to women in church leadership. 4.0p.m. **Boom and Bloom again our industrial policy leaves us vulnerable**. This was the most insightful session which highlighted the lack of skill and talent in our indigenous industries which leaves us lagging behind. 8.30p.m. **Infrastructure Key, will planning framework be implemented** DCC came in for criticism over Raheny Housing and vacant sites along the Quays

Friday 27th **Chamber of Commerce Session here** again the vulnerability of our indigenous industries were highlighted 51 of our largest companies are FDI and 10 are Irish. 2.30 **Dark forces undermining our democracy** this session was about how social media can undermine us and the weakness in our cyber security. **4.30 Peter Robinson addressed us**. He very clearly said that he wants an Assembly in NI and talked about the weakening relations in both communities as well as north south because of not having an assembly. Last session 8.30p.m. on **Women in Irish Public life**. Recognised that changes have been made but still have a way to go. One speaker talked about how much more healthy it is to have gender balance in the work place and in decision making.

Recommendations

The only point that is within the competency of the City Council is the point that a greater gender balance makes for a more healthy work place and decision making. The absence of balance of women in senior management in DCC is one that could change.

Appendix C – Conference Report Sheet

Declaration	
I certify that I attended the above-mentioned Conference/Training Seminar.	
Signed by <i>Mary Freehill</i>	Date <i>7/8/18</i>