

Liam Kenny, AILG Director
Association of Irish Local Government
Office Unit 10
Manor Mills
Maynooth
Co. Kildare
W23YT63

Dublin, 14 July 2021

Re: Publication of equality reviews on Traveller accommodation, recommendations for local authorities

Dear Mr Kenny,

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has today published accounts of equality reviews for Ireland's local authorities on their provision of accommodation to Members of the Traveller Community. The accounts are to be published alongside the Commission's Annual Report.

Section 32 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality 2014 Act gives the Commission statutory powers in relation to the carrying out of equality reviews and the preparation of Equality Action Plans. An equality review or equality action plan may relate to equality of opportunity generally, or a particular aspect of discrimination, within an organisation or organisations (public or private sector).

With strong evidence of a consistent underspend of the Traveller-specific accommodation budget, the Commission initiated these equality reviews in 2019 to gather information from councils and to allow for a systematic review of the issues driving underspend in in some local authority areas and, therefore, nationally.

This has been a significant undertaking for the Commission with important implications for the protection and promotion of human rights and equality in the State. The Commission has made a series of recommendations, and has asked each council to report to us by the end of August 2021, specifying the actions taken, or intended within specific timeframes. The Commission will then consider what further action, if any, is necessary.

The Commission is aware that many local authorities are currently implementing their statutory Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty and the findings of this equality review would be relevant to their equality and human rights assessment and action plan as required by the Duty.

The equality reviews are available on our website at <https://www.ihrec.ie/our-work/equalityreviews/>.

On behalf of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, I would appreciate your assistance in circulating this letter to your membership for their attention.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Sinéad Gibney', written in a cursive style.

Sinéad Gibney

Chief Commissioner

Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission