



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

Oifig an Cheannasaí Airgeadais, An Roinn Airgeadais,  
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire

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Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D.  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,  
Custom House,  
Dublin,  
D01 W6X0.

22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021.

Dear Minister O'Brien,

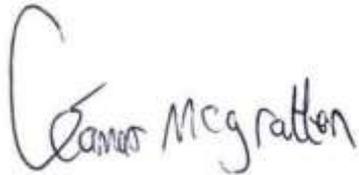
I hope that you and your team are keeping well. I write to you with regard to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic and its significant impact on certain sectors of the Dublin economy. I might first record the appreciation of Dublin City Council for the supports given over the course of the pandemic. The Rates Waiver Scheme, as operated in 2021, met the rating liabilities of specific commercial rate accounts to the amount of €100.3m. This funding was essential both to the business entities involved and to Dublin City Council in continuing to operate in these uncertain times.

At the meeting of Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, the matter of the Rates Waiver Scheme was discussed. The SPC members discussed the potential impact from public health measures announced by Government this week, to commence from today 19<sup>th</sup> November. To give context to the impact of these measures, members spoke of businesses within the hospitality sector having had cancellations advised to them over a period of just 24 hours representing lost business to the value of €250k. There is very real concern that, as the nature of the trading environment facing businesses now is precarious, further restrictions, not in any way doubting the public health requirement for such, will threaten the viability of many businesses.

In reviewing the Rates Waiver Scheme, as operated in 2021, the terms of the scheme for quarter 4 2021 are more restrictive than those of quarters 1 to 3. It is the view of the Finance SPC that businesses will need more support in this fourth quarter than previously estimated,

depending on the impact of further restrictions on their business. There may be a view that a rates waiver scheme would not be needed in 2022 but this SPC believes that continued business supports including rates waivers should be considered.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Séamas McGrattan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

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**Cllr Séamas McGrattan**  
**Chairperson**  
**Finance Strategic Policy Committee**  
**Dublin City Council**