



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

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

Office of the Head of Finance, Finance Department,  
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland  
T. 01 222 2102/3 E. [finoff@dublincity.ie](mailto:finoff@dublincity.ie)

9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

Mary Hurley  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
Customs House  
Dublin 1

Dear Mary,

I hope that you and your team are keeping well. I write to you with regard to the recently announced targeted Commercial Rates Waiver Scheme in place for quarter 4 2021 (Circular Fin 20/21). I might preface this correspondence with a grateful acknowledgement of the supports provided by the Department to businesses and local authorities over the course of the pandemic. There is a strong and growing appreciation of all things local as lifestyle patterns adjust. The many services provided by Dublin City Council and the benefits from a functioning adapting trading environment, including retail, have importance for those living, working or visiting Dublin.

As mentioned, I wish to bring to your attention representations made to Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance, by the Elected Representatives of Dublin City Council on the Q4 Commercial Rates Waiver Scheme. On a broad level, there is appreciation on the part of the Elected Members of the extended rates waiver scheme to quarter 4, alongside concerns for businesses excluded from the scheme. These concerns are fundamentally rooted in the degree of change arising from public health measures, uncertainty and changed trading conditions for many businesses.

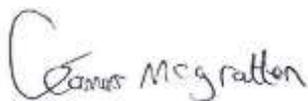
A specific representation has been made which relates to a dry cleaning business, Marlowe's at 52 Clontarf Road, Dublin 3. The dry cleaning trade is heavily dependent on two key matters, the first being hospitality, the second business wear. Dry cleaning transactions

correlate strongly with hospitality patterns (functions, concerts, weddings etc.). It is acknowledged that hospitality has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, with weddings and functions cancelled. It follows then that as hospitality is recognised as having contracted due to the pandemic, that supporting trades, such as dry cleaning, being exposed to changes in hospitality patterns, can be considered as having contracted also. Support industries and services to hospitality, experience trade as a function of the trading dynamic within the hospitality sector. There is a direct causal link between hospitality buoyancy and the buoyancy of support industries and services, such as dry cleaning. The dry cleaning trade also derives from the use of business wear, which has reduced heavily as people work from home and opt for less formal clothing.

I must emphasise that both Elected Representatives and rate payers are familiar with the terms of the Qtr4 Commercial Rates Waiver Scheme in that there is no provision for appeal. Nonetheless, they have asked that the anomalies faced by Marlowe's in particular and more generally in relation to the dry cleaning trade and other support industries and services be considered with a view to amending the scheme to provide for a wider inclusion base.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Séamas McGrattan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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**Cllr Séamas McGrattan**  
**Chairperson**  
**Finance Strategic Policy Committee**

