



Ms Kathy Quinn and Mr John Flanagan

Civic Offices

Wood Quay

Dublin 8

15th December 2021

Dear Kathy / John,

I refer to your letter of 25th May 2021 regarding the condition of roads in Dublin City and I wish to apologise for the delay in responding on this matter.

As you know, each local authority has statutory responsibility for the maintenance and improvement of roads within its area of responsibility. State grants, where applicable, are intended to supplement the funding allocated to the maintenance and improvement of roads by local authorities from their own resources. Prior to the introduction of the Local Property Tax (LPT) exchequer grants in respect of the Dublin Authorities appear to have been typically in the range of 20% to 30% of total road maintenance expenditure.

The arrangement put in place by Government following the introduction of LPT required local authorities, where receipts from LPT exceeded the previous General Purpose Grant, to use part of that surplus to replace certain Central Government funding, including regional and local road grants. In the case of Dublin City Council self-funding of €5.78 million was required which reflected the amount of the regional and local road grant provided to the Council for road maintenance and rehabilitation works prior to that change.

I note that for 2022 there is a requirement for Dublin City Council to self-fund across the combined programmes of roads and housing to the value of €30.1 million. I would not be aware if there are other self-funding requirements or if there are restrictions placed on the Council regarding the spending of the balance of retained LPT monies.

As you will be aware the Department is very focused on encouraging active travel and this is supported by a significant financial commitment in relation to walking and cycling over the period 2021 to 2025. Dublin City Council will benefit from this commitment in terms of new/improved infrastructure for walking and cycling. In



addition it will benefit from the Bus Connects programme over the next ten years which will require major reconfiguration on the selected routes and will include the renewal of roadway, footway and cycle track surfaces.

The issue of providing for future maintenance costs for walking and cycling facilities is the subject of ongoing discussion within the Department and with TII and the NTA and will be relevant to road authorities across the country. To date a suitable funding mechanism for such maintenance works has not yet been established.

The Department would be happy to discuss this and other issues with Dublin City Council and to facilitate an early meeting. I believe it would be important to include the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in funding discussions as any new LPT arrangements would be an important consideration when reviewing future maintenance funding.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic Mullaney".

Dominic Mullaney

Principal Adviser

Regional and Local Roads Division