

Mary Curran

From: finoff@dublincity.ie
Sent: 01 March 2024 15:02
To: Minister O'Brien Office
Cc: mo-finance@corr.cloud.gov.ie; 'Catherine Martin'; 'Paschal Donohoe'; 'michael.mcgrath@oireachtas.ie'; Kathy Quinn; Deputy Leo Varadkar; Cllr Seamas McGrattan; taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie
Subject: Visitor Accommodation Charge for Dublin City
Attachments: Letter to Minister McGrath re Visitor Accommodation Charge from Cllr McGrattan 080224.pdf

Good afternoon Minister O'Brien,

I refer to the below correspondence (reply), received from Minister McGrath's private secretary, Niamh Kavanagh and the attached letter from Cllr Seamas McGrattan, Chair of the Finance SPC, Dublin City Council to Minister McGrath, in relation to the above, on which you were copied.

Minister McGrath has advised that any policy change, *in the first instance*, in relation to local government finances rests with the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage to consider. I ask that you consider the introduction of enabling primary legislation on this issue as part of the Budget and Finance Bill as advised by Minister McGrath's Office.

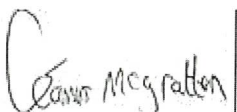
I extend an invitation to you or your representative to attend the next meeting of the Finance SPC on Thursday, 21st March at 2.30pm or indeed to meet at any time that might suit your Department to discuss this matter.

There has been ongoing correspondence with Minister McGrath, Minister Martin and your Department in relation to this with similar replies to the below. ***There is no doubt this Committee is aware that legislation is required and that a number of Departments need to be involved to enable it.***

I would appreciate if you or your Department might accept our meeting invitation to progress this important source of funding which is a matter of routine in Europe and worldwide and is greatly needed in the absence of a sustainable funding system for our Capital City.

I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,



Cllr. Séamas McGrattan
Chair of the Finance Special Policy Committee
Dublin City Council

From: Ministers Office <mo-finance@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: 01 March 2024 09:51
To: finoff@dublincity.ie
Subject: FIN-MO-00549-2024

Our Ref: FIN-MO-00549-2024

Cllr Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Dublin City Council
[finoff@dublincity.ie]

Dear Cllr McGrattan,

The Minister for Finance, Mr Michael McGrath TD, has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your further correspondence in relation to a proposed Visitor Accommodation Charge.

I note that a response to your original correspondence of 24 October and 2 November did issue at 10:42 on 14 November.

That previous response noted that there are a range of policy issues which arise from any new levy or charge which would need to be considered before a proposal could be discussed by Government.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has responsibility for the financial well-being and effective financial management and accountability of local authorities. Where a policy change in relation to Local Government Finances is sought by a local authority then that Department would consider the need for such a policy in the first instance.

As previously noted, any policy in this area would also need appropriate input from the Departments of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, Finance, and of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

As you note in your correspondence, any change in this area would require legislation. If Government were to make a policy decision to proceed with a Visitor Accommodation Charge then the required legislation would form part of the normal Budget and Finance Bill process.

The Minister for Finance is not available to meet with your Committee but will ensure his officials engage with any accommodation tax proposal from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Kavanagh

Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance

A Member of the Minister for Finance staff. The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie).

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Tá an fhaisnéis atá sa ríomhphost seo (agus in aon cheangaltáin) faoi rún agus is don fhaighteoir/do na faighteoirí beartaithe é agus é/iad sin anháin. Mura tusa an faighteoir beartaithe, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo ná aon chuid di a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh ná a choinneáil. Sa chás gur trí earráid a fuair tú an ríomhphost seo, tabhair fógra dom láithreach faoi sin agus scríos gach cóip den