



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government

PAC-R-883



Correspondence 3B.2  
Meeting 78 – 21/03/2013

Oifig an Ard Rúnaí  
Office of the Secretary General

12 March 2013



Ms. Niamh Maguire  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

Dear Ms. Maguire,

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding "The Warrens Wet and Dry Homeless Hostel, Wicklow Town".

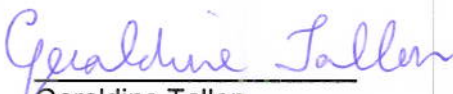
The Department's role in relation to homelessness involves the provision of a national framework of policy, legislation and funding to underpin the role of housing authorities in addressing homelessness at local or regional level. Statutory responsibility in relation to the provision of accommodation and related services for homeless persons rests with the housing authorities.

The Department is aware of the property in question which is in the ownership of Wicklow County Council. The Council purchased the property for social housing purposes with the assistance of capital funding from the Department's Social Housing Investment Programme.

Wicklow County Council's proposal to utilise the property as a homeless facility has been the subject of on-going communication between the Council and the Department. However, to date no funding, under Section 10 of the Housing Act 1988, has been approved or agreed by the Department for the operation of the proposed service.

Wicklow County Council has confirmed that it is entering into a service level agreement with the Simon Community to operate the facility on a pilot basis for 12 months, without recourse to the Department for Section 10 funding.

Yours sincerely,

  
Geraldine Tallon  
Secretary General

