



**Department of Rural and
Community Development**



*An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail*

Mr. Leo Bollins
Clerk to the Committee
Joint Committee on Rural and Community Development

leo.bollins@oireachtas.ie

30 May 2018

Dear Mr. Bollins

I refer to your e-mail of 16th May 2018 in relation to the submission on Dormant Accounts legislation, entitled Abandoned Safekeeping in Ireland.

I thank the Committee for opportunity to comment on the submission. The Department is cognisant of the issues relating to unclaimed items submitted for safekeeping, which of course remain the property of the owner or those acting on behalf of that person's estate. As the Committee will be aware, any proposals in relation to the inspection, cataloguing or transfer of this personal property (which may contain important legal documents such as deeds or wills, jewellery, art or family heirlooms) under National Monuments or Dormant Accounts legislation would raise complex constitutional, legal and operational issues. In that context, the Department does not at this time have plans to develop a policy regarding the inclusion of safekeeping or safety deposit boxes within the scope of Dormant Accounts legislation.

The Department's current focus is on the forthcoming publication of the Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan 2018, which will set out a number of measures which have been allocated Dormant Accounts funding to support disadvantaged groups and the disabled. In addition, the Department is also undertaking a review of the Dormant Accounts Disbursement Scheme 2013-2016 and the administration of the Fund in general. As part of the review, the Department is examining ways that the Dormant Accounts Fund, as constituted, can better support these groups and how we can make the best use of the funds that are currently available.

I trust that the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Seán Kyne T.D.

Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development

25 Clare Street, Dublin 2, D02 HC42