



Moore Street Preservation Trust

Iontaobhas Caomhnaithe Sráid an Mhúraigh

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Brian Stanley TD
Cathaoirleach
Public Account Committee
Dáil Éireann.

13.2.24

A Chathoirligh,

The letter to your Committee dated 18 January 2024 from Graham Doyle, Secretary General, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, has been brought to our attention.

The following arises from the Department's letter:

There is no response to the Dáil allegations made by Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD on the payment of compensation to traders in return for support for the developer's planning applications.

There is no response to queries on disclosure re. purchase of 14 to 17 Moore Street nor a response re purchase of 18 Moore Street or part thereof.

There is no response as to who sanctioned the proposed payments to traders. The query on the failure to tender as promised has not been answered.

With regard to the Moore Street Advisory Group, compensation was to be a matter for the developer and traders with Dublin City Council as facilitator of discussions as reported in *The Irish Times* on May 6th 2021 as follows:

“Chair. Tom Collins: ‘There are 17 remaining licence holders on the street. It is recommended that a process commences immediately involving these traders and the developers. The scale of any such fund will need to be agreed between the traders and the developers.’”

At all material times the Department must have been aware that there was or would be a planning application for the site. There is no provision under National Monument legislation for compensation to be paid for disturbance during works to a National Monument.

At Dublin City Council's meeting 7th Feb 2022 the Chief Executive gave the following reply to a question:

"This was a tripartite framework with DCC, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and Dublin Central GP Ltd. (Hammerson) partaking to compensate traders as all three DCC, DCGP and the Dept. brought forward proposals that may have an impact on traders over the coming years."

These and other questions surrounding the purchase of buildings and proposed payments to traders out of the public purse have not been addressed in full or at all in this Departmental response and so in our view require the full attention of your committee by way of public session in the public interest.


The Secretary General asks 'how The Trust proposes to realise' its plans given that the site is 'privately owned'. This is misleading. The State has a direct say in the development of Dublin Central through its ownership of properties throughout the site including the Dublin Bus Office, the former Garda Station on O'Connell St., the declared National Monument 14 to 17 Moore Street, part of 18 Moore Street, City Council property at 24/25 Moore Street, the public streets and laneways and the planning of the proposed Metro Station.

Further, no development can take place in proximity to the National Monument at 14 to 17 Moore Street without the consent of the Minister.

Finally, we note the somewhat disparaging language of the Secretary General with regard to the Moore Street Preservation Trust and Moore Street campaigners generally. We are referred to as "one of a number of connected self-styled entities". Campaigners are also accused of being "opposed to the State's project".

In fact, it was the vigilance and activism of campaigners that prevented the demolition of the entire terrace 10-25 Moore Street as proposed under a previous plan. But for their work there would have been no National Monument 14-17 Moore Street (last meeting place of the Provisional Government at Easter 1916) for the State to purchase in the first place. The State's project to conserve, enhance and open the National Monument – at one stage promised for 2016 - has been put on hold because, very regrettably, successive Ministers have made it subject to the commercial retail plans of the current owners of the surrounding buildings, Hammerson.

Is mise le meas



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