



Deputy Carol Nolan TD,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

1st May 2025

carol.nolan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Nolan,

I refer to PQ Ref: 14875/25 and 14877/25 for response on 27 March 2025, namely:

PQ 14875/25 - To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if she will address concerns that the proposal to allow the Carna Bay Hotel in Carna, in the Connemara Gaeltacht, to be used as an international protection accommodation centre will have a serious impact on the ability of the area to host those who want to educate themselves about the Irish language; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 14877/25 - To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to clarify the status of the Carna Bay Hotel in Carna, in the Connemara Gaeltacht, with respect to its use as an international protection accommodation centre; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Thank you for your question, Deputy.

Apologies for the delay in issuing this response.

The Department received an offer of international protection accommodation at the Carna Bay Hotel and had been appraising this offer.

We are also aware that the community is advancing a proposal to the owner of the property to develop a potential community hotel at this site.

To allow that proposal to be explored by the community with the appropriate bodies, this Department decided on March 7 to pause the appraisal of this property for a period of three months from that date, at which point the appraisal process will resume.



There is no contract in place for accommodation for international protection applicants at this site, however, some people fleeing the war in Ukraine are accommodated there.

The Government is committed to moving away from its reliance on the private sector to provide accommodation for people seeking international protection. In line with the Comprehensive Accommodation Strategy, the government is planning the development of more accommodation on state owned lands. This will ensure greater cost benefit to the state, ending reliance on hotels including those that are the last such amenity in the community

I trust this information is helpful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norma Foley'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Norma Foley, T.D.

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth