

## DÁIL ÉIREANN

*Dé Máirt, 26 Eanáir, 2010*  
*Tuesday, 26th January, 2010*

2.30 p.m.

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### GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

*Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairsceint : Notice of Amendment to Motion*

76. “That Dáil Éireann:

- notes the swift response and work of local authority workers during the cold weather emergency;
- condemns the Government for its slow national response to the recent weather crisis;
- is concerned that no national co-ordination plan for severe weather emergencies is in place to co-ordinate local plans at a national level;
- recognises the social and economic hardship caused by water restrictions and by local transport network disruptions;
- recognises that an inefficient, outdated and fragmented water network has contributed to water problems across the State;
- notes with concern that on average 43% of Ireland’s treated water supply was lost through unidentified leaks before the recent severe cold weather;
- notes the refusal of the Government to put additional financial measures in place to address severely damaged local and regional roads; and
- recognises that the 32% cut in the regional and local road upkeep budget implemented by the Department of Transport last year compounded damage caused by cold weather; and

calls on the Government to:

- establish a single water semi-State utility company to take over responsibility for water investment and management on a national basis;
- re-allocate future water funding from the Exchequer to prioritise water conservation;
- examine all engineering resources of the State to ensure a rapid remedy to widespread burst water mains;
- develop and test as a matter of priority a national severe weather emergency plan that outlines the actions to be taken by the Government and its agencies; and
- provide additional funding for the restoration of severely damaged local and regional

roads for reasons of road safety and to minimise costly reconstruction costs caused by further deterioration.” — *Phil Hogan, Fergus O'Dowd, Enda Kenny, Bernard Allen, James Bannon, Seán Barrett, Pat Breen, Richard Bruton, Ulick Burke, Catherine Byrne, Joe Carey, Deirdre Clune, Paul Connaughton, Noel J. Coonan, Simon Coveney, Seymour Crawford, Michael Creed, Lucinda Creighton, Michael D'Arcy, John Deasy, Jimmy Deenihan, Andrew Doyle, Bernard J. Durkan, Damien English, Olwyn Enright, Frank Feighan, Charles Flanagan, Terence Flanagan, Brian Hayes, Tom Hayes, Paul Kehoe, George Lee, Pádraic McCormack, Shane McEntee, Dinny McGinley, Joe McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Denis Naughten, Dan Neville, Michael Noonan, Kieran O'Donnell, Jim O'Keeffe, John O'Mahony, John Perry, James Reilly, Michael Ring, Alan Shatter, Tom Sheahan, P. J. Sheehan, David Stanton, Billy Timmins, Leo Varadkar.*

*Leasú:*

*Amendment:*

1. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

- “— shares the Government’s appreciation of the work of local authorities, Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána, Defence Forces, Civil Defence and other statutory bodies in responding to the November 2009 flooding and recent severe weather events;
- recognises the contribution by voluntary organisations and individuals and the assistance provided to their fellow citizens during the two weather events;
- commends the Government’s use of the National Emergency Response Co-ordination Committees to provide direction to the management of the response issues during the flooding and severe weather events;
- recognises the significant funding made available by the Government over recent years under the Water Services Investment Programme in response to specific environmental, public health and economic needs;
- welcomes, despite the current difficult economic situation, the provision of €508 million in 2010 for the Water Services Investment Programme;
- notes the Minister’s intention to effect a reprioritisation in the new Water Services Investment Programme 2010 to 2012 with a very significant increase in investment in water conservation aimed at addressing the unacceptably high levels of leakage in local authority water supplies;
- notes the significant progress being made to implement water quality management and flood relief planning on a river basin basis;
- notes the progress being made by local authorities to repair water mains damaged on foot of recent severe weather events;
- notes that during the prolonged severe weather 14,000 km or 14.5 per cent of the public road network of 96,000 km was gritted daily and sometimes twice daily;
- acknowledges that the national road network together with other key strategic roads and public transport routes was kept open to traffic at all times;
- notes that €5.7 billion has been contributed from the Exchequer for local and regional roads since 1997 and that despite the difficult financial situation over €411 million is being made available for 2010;
- welcomes that the priority for regional and local roads for 2010 is to safeguard the existing investment and repair the damage caused by the recent severe weather; and
- commends the Minister’s intention to review the operation of the emergency response arrangements under the Framework for Major Emergency Management in relation to

the two weather events to learn from the experience gained and to ascertain if any improvements are necessary and which may be applicable in managing the emergency response to future such events.” — *An tAire Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil*.