



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

25 April 2018

Ardmhéara Mícheál MacDonncha
Office of the Lord Mayor
Mansion House
Dawson Street
Dublin 2
D02 AF30



REP738/EM/18

A Árdmhéara, a chara

I refer to your letter of 27 March 2018 in connection with the resolution passed by Dublin City Council on 20 March relating to my Department's Circular Letter PL 02/2018 – Discussion of planning applications at Council meetings, and requesting me to withdraw the circular.

The purpose of the circular is to remind planning authorities and elected members that they are required to consider planning applications in accordance with the open, transparent and verifiable written process set down in planning legislation and that planning authorities, when making their decisions, are restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned. The circular points out that discussion of the merits of individual planning applications at Municipal District and Area Committee meetings or full Council meetings does not form part of the statutory process for the consideration of planning applications. However, the circular also refers to the 2007 statutory Development Management Guidelines issued to planning authorities under section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which recognise that elected members may be informed by planning staff of factual matters relating to particular planning applications to enable them to make substantive comments on planning applications by way of formal written submissions or observations to the planning authority.



I do not propose to withdraw this circular as it restates and does not amend statutory guidance previously issued in relation to this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Eoghan Murphy, T.D.,
Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government