



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Seirbhísí Leasa Shóisialaigh
Grianán na Sionna
Cora Droma Rúisc
Co Liatroma.



Department of Social Protection
Social Welfare Services
Shannon Lodge
Carrick-on-Shannon
Co Leitrim.

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10th August 2015

Mr Seán O'Callaghan
Senior Executive Officer
Cork County Council
County Hall
CORK CITY



Dear Mr O'Callaghan

I wish to refer to a motion sent to this Department dated 14th July 2015. The motion calls on the Department to immediate start a rural and urban work scheme.

The position is that the Department already provides resources to rural and urban communities through a number of schemes. In particular, I will mention the Rural Social Scheme and Tús – the community work placement initiative, both of which are operated by local development companies. Your members will already be aware that Gateway is delivered by Cork County Council and Cork City Council. Additionally, the Department funds work placement and training places using community employment and the job initiative. Community services are supported under a community business and/or social enterprise model under the Community Services Programme.

Community, voluntary, not-for-profit and private sector employers may also avail of wage subsidies under our JobsPlus Initiative to encourage recruitment of longer term jobseekers.

Given the array of these programme plus other programmes targets at support the employment of people with disabilities, I see no justification what another scheme as suggested should be introduced and this is not being considered.

Yours sincerely

T J FLEMING
Principal Officer
Community and Employment Support Services