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11th February 2016

Mr. Alan Kelly, TD
Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1

Re: Amalgamation of Fire Services and Library Services in certain local authorities *

Dear Minister

Thank you for meeting a delegation from IMPACT Trade Union on 17th December last following your address to our conference in Galway in May of last year.

As you aware, the Union has been campaigning to ensure the views of communities in Carlow, Cavan, Cork, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath [library services] and in Carlow, Cavan, Galway, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath [fire services] on the proposed amalgamations, are properly addressed. IMPACT has led the opposition of those communities and ensured that the overwhelming majority of locally elected public representatives and county councils concerned have opposed the proposals. The officials in the Local Government Management Agency and the Department have informed the Union that the proposals are not driven by cost efficiencies. The proposals will deprive those counties of their own County Librarians and Chief Fire Officers.

At our meeting of 17th December last, you undertook to consider and act on the matter in a short period of time. Local authorities were required to set out their proposals on the matter by November 30th November 2014 and latterly 30th June 2015. IMPACT believes that this has not happened largely as a response to our campaign on the matter.

Regional Offices:

Father Mathew Quay, Cork, T12 EWW0 Tel: 021-425-5210. Unit 23, Seán Mulvoy Business Park, Galway, H91 HT27 Tel: 091-778-031.
Roxborough Road, Limerick, V94 YY31 Tel: 061-319-177. Ice House, Fish Quay, Sligo, F91 HHX4 Tel: 071-914-2400.

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We also believe that your commitment to consider the Union's position has been significant. While we understand the great demands on your time at this point, we would be grateful if you would give urgent and immediate consideration to intervening on the matter by maintaining the current arrangements for the fire and library services in these counties.

I look forward to hearing from you at an early date.

Yours sincerely



Peter Nolan
National Secretary
Local Government & Local Services Division

pn/lc

*** Amalgamation of Library Services and Fire Services**

Library Services

Carlow/Kilkenny
Cavan/Monaghan
Cork City & County
Laois/Offaly
Longford/Westmeath
Sligo/Leitrim/Roscommon

Fire Services

Carlow/Kilkenny
Cavan/Monaghan
Galway City & County
Laois/Offaly
Longford/Westmeath
Sligo/Leitrim/Roscommon