



The Public Sector Trade Union

Local Government, Education
& Local Services Division

NATIONAL SECRETARY
Peter Nolan

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Minister Alan Kelly
Department of the Environment,
Community and Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1

17 July 2015

Dear Minister

There is a growing concern among members of IMPACT trade union, working in both Dublin City Council and in voluntary homeless services, that the funding allocation for homeless services, details of which emerged last week, will be insufficient to meet the demand for services through to the end of 2015.

The total estimated cost for services for the year is €68m. The funding allocation for the year is, however, just €37.1m.

The growing concern among our members that are delivering these services is that the necessary funds will run out just as we enter the critical winter period. In that instance we run the risk of being plunged back into the type of crisis that prompted your emergency summit last December.

Minister, that summit was a welcome and proactive response to a deepening homelessness crisis, and IMPACT welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the summit based on quality information we were receiving from members working in homeless services.

Unfortunately, the numbers becoming homeless since the start of the year have continued to grow, and there is a particularly worrying growth in the number of children and families who are becoming homeless each month. It is largely due to this unprecedented surge in family homelessness that such a shortfall has emerged.

This pattern is putting additional pressure on the existing services. On behalf of our members in the local government and voluntary sectors who are tackling this growing problem, I would urge you to consider all available options to ensure that these services don't run out of funding before the end of the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Nolan', written over a horizontal line.

PETER NOLAN
National Secretary
Local Government & Local Services Division