

March 23rd

Dear Deputy

We have been working hard to make sure Travellers are supported in every way to reduce the spread and impact of the Coronavirus.

The Irish Traveller Movement and other national groups had concerns where there no special measures were in place for Travellers living in overcrowded conditions and/or without adequate on site sanitation facilities. No circular had been issued to give guidance that would assist Travellers and those most vulnerable within the community who were at greater risk.

Working with Minister English and his officials a circular was since issued to the Local Authorities on 18th of March.(Attached)

We also called for a moratorium on evictions of Travellers, particularly Section 10 evictions, for the duration of the crisis. It has been brought to our attention that families were served with such notices two weeks ago, one in Wexford to a couple with only 24 hours notice. The Minister committed that the LA's would be requested to be mindful of the situation of Travellers and asked the Traveller NGOs to inform the Department if these arise.

We believe that that does not give adequate guarantee and protection to Travellers particularly at this time.

We note the eviction moratorium proposal tabled for this week does not and should include Travellers.

We hope that you would be able to raise our concerns to the Ministers with responsibility.

Best regards and many thanks

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