

## ÉIR CHUN CINN – PUTTING IRELAND FIRST

[www.sinnfein.ie/dessie-ellis-td](http://www.sinnfein.ie/dessie-ellis-td)



### NOTE FROM DESSIE

It is a privilege and an honour to represent you all in Dáil Éireann as your TD. I take my responsibilities to you the constituents of Dublin North West seriously. I am the only TD in this constituency who has a constituency office open to hear your concerns every day from Monday to Friday.

I have a strong record in the Dáil speaking on issues that directly concern Dublin North West. I have also brought forward bills such as the Road Traffic (Quads and Scrambler) Bill, Private members Bills on Housing and Transport and regularly put in amendments to government bills where they affect the interests of the people of Dublin North West. I also regularly submit parliamentary questions on your behalf to government

**CONTINUED INSIDE**



### Outrageous hikes in Bin Charges hit the elderly and the vulnerable hardest



I have been campaigning over the last number of years against the privatisation of the bin services in Dublin North West. I warned time and time again that private firms would hike up bin charges. That is what's happening now. Every day I am hearing how firms like Greyhound are hiking up charges through pay by weight and charging for all bins. People find themselves with unexpected big bills to pay to these waste disposal firms. These hikes in bin charges affect us all but especially the elderly, the vulnerable, those with medical conditions and disabilities, those with large families and so on will be hit the hardest.

It is no surprise that this government's new system for waste charging, facilitated by Fianna Fáil, puts many households at financial risk. People are already struggling paying mortgages, rents, childcare, property tax, and car insurance. These hikes in bin charges add substantially to the household budget.

**Sinn Féin is fighting for:**

- **immediate withdrawal of the proposed changes to the waste permits in regard**



- **to designated charging structures**
- **a waiver scheme for low income households**
- **a feasibility study of greater public ownership and the possible return of this service to local authorities and increased regulatory control of household waste collection**
- **a system of obligations on manufacturing companies and wholesalers to reduce packaging being produced at source and to prioritize the minimization of waste across society**

Water Charges were defeated by people power, this new waste charging system will also be defeated.

Join Sinn Féin's campaign to bin the waste charge hikes.



# DEATHS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN GET THE GOVERNMENT MOVING AS HOMELESS CRISIS CONTINUES

The recent deaths of a number of homeless people has once again brought the issue of the homeless back into the news. We have had a homeless crisis for years now. The government and the present government have done little to end this humanitarian crisis. The government response to these latest deaths has been to hold yet another talking shop on how to resolve the homeless crisis. For years Sinn Féin has been say that it is time for the Government to stop talking about the housing and homeless crisis and to take immediate action. How many more people have to die on the streets before the government takes concrete action?

## NOTE FROM DESSIE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

departments and agencies. I am also a party spokesperson on Housing. Most recently I have been given an additional responsibility being appointed the Sinn Féin spokesperson on Drugs and Alcohol misuse. In this capacity I have been asked to develop an all-Ireland Drugs and Alcohol strategy for Sinn Féin. I will be looking to you in the community, to the many support groups and organisations campaigning and working on these issues to help me put together a comprehensive Drugs and Alcohol Strategy for Sinn Féin. I have worked tirelessly over the years campaigning and working in the community on these issues. So I am excited to develop with your help this important strategy for Sinn Féin.

The last number of years have been very hard on the ordinary people of Dublin North West. The uncaring policies of this government and previous governments in partnership with Fianna Fáil have caused much hardship for ordinary people. You were not responsible for the economic chaos that led to recession and austerity but you were the ones who suffered most during these years of austerity and are still suffering.

I have along with my colleagues in Sinn Féin have strongly challenged on every occasion the austerity policies and the uncaring legislation that have crippled and hurt those who I represent.

My vision and the vision of Sinn Féin is to build an Ireland of equals. Where every man, woman and child are treated the same. Where all regardless of where they come from have the same opportunities and the same access to essential services in health, housing education etc.

I will continue my work for all of the people in Dublin North West as your TD both in Dáil Éireann and across the constituency. Thank you for placing your trust in me and as we enter a new session of the Dáil I will continue working hard to represent you the people of Dublin North West.

Facing into the winter and the harsh conditions that people living on the streets have to endure I am shocked to find that figures released by the Department of housing have shown once again a rise in the number of homeless people using emergency accommodation. In June there were 5,036 homeless adults up from 4,922 in May and 1,365 families were in homeless accommodation.

Of course these figures don't often reflect the true figures for rough sleepers or the many people who for example are sleeping on friend's floors or couches. They are not always included in official figures. The true homeless figure is most likely much higher.

2,895 children were classed as homeless in June, 118 more than in May. 7,941 adults and children in total were registered as

homeless in June. The homeless situation is worse than it ever was and it is not improving. In fact the increasing number of adults and children and families becoming homeless is reaching record highs. If the government has a strategy to solve this crisis it clearly isn't working.

The homeless figures are unprecedented. Promises by successive government Ministers for housing have proved meaningless. Children and babies are being raised and born into homelessness. This is a sad indictment of our moral and ethical priorities. We can find €64 billion for the banks and yet can't provide a roof over the head for homeless families.

The homeless are used to false promises from this and previous governments. So are the people of Dublin North West.



### REPORT DUMPING TO DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Dublin City Council has set up an email and telephone No., so that members of the public can report illegal dumping it is: nwa.publicdomain@dublincity.ie or Freephone Litter Hotline at

**1800 251 500**





# HOSPITAL WAITING LIST INCREASES SHOW AN UNDER RESOURCED HEALTH SERVICE

The number of people on waiting lists for hospitals across the country has increased again during the month of August. Latest figures show that the number of people on public hospital outpatient waiting lists has more than 497,000 people across the country awaiting outpatient treatment at the end of August.

The national increases are marked by severe escalations in waiting lists in hospitals catering for Dublin North West. The Mater hospital figures show that the number of people on outpatient waiting lists has increased by 5179 in August from January figures leaving a total of 32,208 waiting on medical procedures. While at Beaumont hospital the number of people on outpatient waiting lists increased by over 1,200 in August from January 2017 leaving a total of 26,263 waiting on medical procedures.

This government is failing in its duty of care to the people of Ireland. The Minister is failing in his duty to provide a properly funded well-resourced health system. The number of outpatients waiting for a hospital appointment

has continuously grown since Simon Harris was appointed Minister for Health in June 2016

Minister Harris is clearly out of his depth and we are all suffering the consequences of his incompetence. Under this government the crisis' in health, housing, the homeless are almost being regarded as being normal. We are almost becoming used to poor services, numb to long waiting lists, hours spent on trolleys and increasing numbers being made homeless each month. Sinn Féin sees nothing normal about any of these crisis'.

Sinn Féin has a strategy to tackle the horrendous hospital waiting lists. A new model to maximise the capacity of the public hospital system is necessary along with the introduction of strategic management across all waiting lists.

An integrated IT system used in the Portuguese National Health Service, would help to achieve new maximum wait times by actively transferring those on the list from hospitals that are failing to meet the target to hospitals that have the ability to offer the service on time.



Under this system, patients would see increased funding for hospitals which would be directly linked to reducing public waiting lists, providing a clear incentive to treat more patients.

Our policy is the best strategy to tackle the disgraceful waiting lists which have been created by this government across the State. We will work to have it implemented and end the ongoing crisis in hospital waiting lists.

MATER HOSPITAL WAITING LIST TIMES 2017	0-3 MONTHS	3-6 MONTHS	6-9 MONTHS	9-12 MONTHS	12-15 MONTHS	15-18 MONTHS	18+ MONTHS	TOTAL
JANUARY	9,750	6,166	3,842	2,943	1,403	985	1,940	27,029
AUGUST	10,893	6,935	3,999	3,322	2,235	1,499	3,325	32,208

BEAUMONT HOSPITAL WAITING LIST TIMES 2017	0-3 MONTHS	3-6 MONTHS	6-9 MONTHS	9-12 MONTHS	12-15 MONTHS	15-18 MONTHS	18+ MONTHS	TOTAL
JANUARY	8,317	5,267	3,041	2,406	1,735	1,460	2,781	25,007
AUGUST	9,118	5,477	3,215	2,515	1,646	1,425	2,867	26,263





## Soaring Car insurance premiums another blow to household incomes

The obscene increases in car insurance prices are an added blow to hard hit household incomes. Young people in particular have experienced prohibitive price quotes that make it almost impossible for the young person to own a car. People who require their car to get to work are faced with effectively being blackmailed into buying car insurance at inflated prices. They have no choice but to get their insurance to enable them to get to work. I have heard many horror stories from mothers with young families, pensioners, young people and many more about the demands of insurance companies for extortionate car insurance prices. These high costs of car insurance impact on the very social fabric

## UNDER RESOURCED GARDAI NO DETERRENT TO BURGLARS

I have consistently raised at the joint Policing committee and Safety Forum the lack of proper resourcing for Gardai in our community. I strongly opposed the closure of the Whitehall Garda Station and the scaling back of Santry Garda Station. These closures have concentrated what meagre resources are available in the Ballymun

Station. These cutbacks put pressure on an already overstretched Gardai and will affect their ability to put a proper service in place for the people of Dublin North West. I will continue to fight for the Gardai to get the funding and the resources they need to allow them to do their job properly and with the confidence of the community.



of a community, families need a car to bring children to school, or take an elderly relative to a hospital or to do the household shopping. There is also an impact on the economy of the community if people can't afford to pay these soaring insurance prices and can't use their car for work purposes or for getting to work.

Sinn Féin is working tirelessly to stop this extortionate pricing in car insurance. We will continue to hold this government to account on this issue and will be fighting for greater protection for consumers. The Government need to impose tighter regulation and greater transparency from both the Central Bank and the insurance industry.

Sinn Féin remains committed to exposing the reasons behind the scandalous, extortionate rising costs of car insurance.



**CONSTITUENCY OFFICE**  
6 Poppintree Mall, Finglas Village  
**OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

**Monday to Friday**  
9.30 - 12.30 and  
2.00pm to 3.00pm

**AXIS Ballymun**  
every Thursday  
6.00pm to 7.00pm

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## JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Help us build a better Ireland for a better future. If you believe in fairness, if you believe in a United Ireland, if you want to see change, text your name and address to 51444, or go to our website [www.sinnfein.ie](http://www.sinnfein.ie)