



Oifig an Tánaiste agus Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna
Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills

Mr. Seán Breathnach
Cathaoirleach an Bhoird
Gaelscoil Philib Barún
An Trá Mhór
Co. Phórt Láirge

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: 1003547 CL

4 October 2010

Dear Mr. Breathnach,

Thank you for your letter in relation to the accommodation needs of Gaelscoil Philib Barún, Trá Mhór Co. Phort Láirge.

I wish to advise you that the school's application for large scale capital funding for a permanent building has been assessed against the published prioritisation criteria, which was formulated following consultation with the Education Partners, and a Band 2 rating has been assigned to the proposed project.

You will understand that due to the demand on my Department's capital budget that it is not possible to progress all projects at the same time. The progression of all large scale building projects, including a project for Gaelscoil Philib Barún, from initial design stage through to construction phase will be considered in the context of my Department's multi-annual School Building and Modernisation Programme for 2011 and subsequent years. In view of the level of demand on the Department's capital budget it is not possible to give an indicative timeframe for the progression of the project at this time.

Your letter contained a proposal for the delivery of a community facility to be built in tandem with the proposed school building. You will appreciate that such a proposal can only be considered when a decision is made to advance a project for this school. In the meantime, the school authority is requested not to engage an architect or design team until my Department is in a position to advance the project under the School Building and Modernisation Programme. Until then, I feel that it would be premature to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Mary Coughlan T.D.,
Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills



Mr Sean Breathnach
Cathaoirleach an Bhoird
Gaelscoil Philib Barún
An Trá Mhór
Co. Phort Láirge

27 September 2010

Our ref: 19885/GS/Waterford

Dear Mr Breathnach

I refer to your letters dated 8/12/09 and 21/09/10 and to my recent telephone conversation with the school principal on the issue of the advancement of a building project for Gaelscoil Philib Barún.

The situation is that the school's application for large scale capital funding has been assessed against the published prioritisation criteria and a Band 2 rating has been assigned to the proposed project. The progression of all large scale building projects, including a project for Gaelscoil Philib Barún, from initial design stage through to construction phase will be considered in the context of the Department's multi-annual School Building and Modernisation Programme for 2011 and subsequent years.

I note the school's proposal for the delivery of a community facility to be built in tandem with the proposed building project for Gaelscoil Philib Barún and also for the construction of a play school. You will appreciate that such a proposal can only be considered when a decision is made to advance the main building project for this school. Apart from possible site restrictions, the legalities for the operation of such facilities can be complex as can the funding arrangements and as such the proposals cannot be considered in isolation to the planned development of the school. Accordingly, the school management are requested not to engage an architect or a design team until the Department is in a position to advance a project for this school.

I wish to assure you that the Department is committed to providing a new school for the Gaelscoil but due to the current level of demand on its capital budget it is not in a position give an indicative timeframe for the progression of the project at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Betty Regan
Higher Executive Officer
School's Capital Appraisal Section
057 9324472

cc School Principal