

From: [REDACTED] Polstaff/Oireachtas  
To: Paul Conway/Staff/Oireachtas@HOUSES, Siobhan Malone/Staff/Oireachtas@HOUSES,  
Date: 01/03/2016 14:46  
Subject: Deputy Zappone - office space

Dear Mr Conway, Dear Ms Malone,

I am writing on behalf of Deputy Zappone.

Her Senator's office is currently located in Room 93. The Deputy will need to re-locate as the current office is too small for the deputy and two members of staff.

Because the Deputy [REDACTED], she would require separate work spaces for herself and her staff (adjoining offices) she requested this when she was first nominated to Seanad but it was not possible to accommodate and she was allocated the office she is currently in. She is now hoping that this can be accommodated.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]  
Office of Senator Katherine Zappone  
Independent Group

Seanad Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Tel: 01-618 3583

Email: [REDACTED]@oireachtas.ie

[www.senatorkatherinezappone.ie](http://www.senatorkatherinezappone.ie)

From: Aengus OSnodaigh/Members/Oireachtas  
To: ceann.comhairle@oir.ie,  
Date: 01/04/2016 12:53  
Subject: REF: Sinn Féin party meeting room  
Sent by: Rosie NiLaoghaire

Seán, a chara,

I write to request a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss the allocation of Sinn Féin's party meeting room.

Now that we have significantly increased our political representation to 23 TDs it is important that we are assigned a meeting room that can facilitate our increased numbers. My attempts to resolve this matter have unfortunately proved unsuccessful because I have been unable to arrange a meeting with Deputy Paul Kehoe.

The failure to allocate SF at party meeting room is causing us a great deal of difficulty as there are no suitable rooms available that can facilitate our full Leinster House team. Consequently, on a number of occasions, we have had to hold our team meetings off-site which is unacceptable.

In order to resolve this matter I am seeking your intervention in your capacity as Chair of the Oireachtas Commission.

I would greatly appreciate therefore, if you could meet with me to expedite this important matter as soon as possible.

Is mise le meas,

Deputy Aengus Ó'Snodaigh  
Sinn Féin Party Whip

From: Gerry Adams/Members/Oireachtas  
To: Peter Finnegan/Staff/Oireachtas@HOUSES,  
Cc: Aengus OSnodaigh/Members/Oireachtas@HOUSES, Paul Conway/Staff/Oireachtas@HOUSES,  
paul.kehoe@taoiseach.gov.ie  
Date: 18/04/2016 16:33  
Subject: Sinn Féin Party Meeting Room  
Sent by: Maire Grogan

Peter, a chara,

As you are aware the Sinn Féin Oireachtas team has increased significantly in size from the recent General election.

With the Seanad election due to occur shortly we expect to increase our representation further.

Given this increase in the number of Sinn Féin elected representatives in addition to the increase in political staffers it is critically important that Sinn Féin are designated a permanent parliamentary party room which can accommodate our full team urgently.

Over the last 5 years we were meeting in premises allocated off-site, in the Committee rooms at LH2000 and for the final remaining months of the last term, the Banking Inquiry room in the main building. Whilst we have been more than accommodating to the Oireachtas Service in this regard, such an arrangement this term will not suffice.

We have made representation through our Whip to the caretaker Government Whip, Ceann Comhairle and Superintendent to resolve this matter and ensure that a permanent and sustainable option is provided.

Despite an agreement in principle from the Government Whip to the Sinn Féin Whip that the Labour Party room would be made available to us, the Oireachtas Service have offered Sinn Féin as the third largest party represented in the Oireachtas the Banking Inquiry room, which is plainly unsuitable and unacceptable.

I would therefore invite you as Clerk of the Dáil to meet with representatives of our party to urgently discuss and resolve the matter.

I would be obliged if your diary secretary could contact my office to make the necessary arrangements on ext: [REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Le meas,

Gerry Adams TD  
Sinn Féin President  
Kildare St  
Dublin 2

Leinster House Tel: +353 1 618 3 [REDACTED]

Website: [www.sinnfein.ie](http://www.sinnfein.ie)  
Blog: [www.leargas.blogspot.com](http://www.leargas.blogspot.com)  
Twitter: GerryAdamsSF

From: David Norris/Oireachtas  
To: Paul Conway/Staff/Oireachtas@HOUSES, Joan N [REDACTED],  
Cc: Nicola Flanagan/Staff/Oireachtas@HOUSES, Emer Kernan/Polstaff/Oireachtas@HOUSES  
Date: 11/05/2016 15:25  
Subject:  
Sent by: Miriam Smith

Dear Superintendent,

I hope you are well? My purpose in writing to you is in connection with room allocation following the recent Seanad election. As Father of the House I would really appreciate it if would be possible to move to a larger room than the one I am currently in. I have been based in the Engineering Block for quite some time and feel that as I said being Father of the House (almost thirty years a member) that now would be a good time to move to a larger space. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

David Norris

From: Mick Barry/Members/Oireachtas  
To: Paul Conway/Staff/Oireachtas@HOUSES,  
Date: 16/05/2016 12:29  
Subject: Additional Car Parking and room space for Anti Austerity Alliance - People Before Profit  
Sent by: Michael Edward OBrien

Dear Paul,

I was directed to make representations to yourself about car parking facilities and room space for Anti Austerity Alliance - People Before Profit

Our representation has increased from four to six relative to the last Dáil and in the context of the amount of TDs being reduced from 166 to 158. Yet we have had not had a proportionate increase in car parking space and we are overcrowded in the rooms we currently hold in Agriculture House.

You might get back to us on the allocation of additional car parking spaces but likewise in the context of Shane Ross and John Halligan imminently vacating Agriculture House we would like to take the room formally occupied by deputy Halligan

Your's sincerely

Michael O'Brien  
On behalf of Mick Barry TD

From: Frances Black/Members/Oireachtas  
To: Paul Conway/Staff/Oireachtas@houses,  
Date: 21/05/2016 14:14  
Subject: Office request

Dear Superintendent

I understand that the process of allocating offices to new Senators will happen shortly. At present I'm finding it extremely difficult to conduct my duties as an elected representative without a permanent office. To date I've held most of my meetings in the coffee dock, while welcoming, it's difficult to have conversations without interruption, some of which are confidential.

I understand some new Senators have acquired offices already. Im writing to ask if I can move into office b.5.53 this office appears to be empty and I'd be happy to share this with my staff.

I do hope you can facilitate this as I do have a number of pressing matters that need my attention and having a permanent base would help tremendously

Kind Regards

Senator Black

From: Frances Black/Members/Oireachtas  
To: alan.ruanne@oir.ie, Paul Conway/Staff/Oireachtas@houses,  
Date: 27/05/2016 15:44  
Subject: Office Space

Dear Alan,

I'm writing to you formally with regards to the ongoing issue of the Oireachtas not being in a position to facilitate me with an office space, a month after being elected.

I believe that I've been respectful of the houses procedures and protocols, the tasks needed to be carried out by your staff, and your time.

There appears to be no clear, equitable or fair way in which offices to newly elected members are allocated. The information that myself or Michael Conlon have received changed on a daily basis. Its also true to state that the rationale in the allocation of office space changes depending on the date, time or day that I speak to someone or indeed whom I speak to. This has increased the frustration and lack of understanding of the process.

The temporary set up in the basement is by no means an ideal way for any elected official to do business. I deal with confidential information that at present has no place to be stored securely. It was on that basis that I moved into the office on the 5th floor so that I could have confidential and private conversations with my staff and visitors seeking for me to make representations on their behalf. The available meeting rooms are rarely available unless booked well in advance. A number of Senators have occupied offices of their own accord and are willing to testify to this. They've remained in those offices without an issue.

I was disappointed to discover that my limited files, laptops, coats, personal items [REDACTED] were packed up and left in reception of LH 2000. A phone call advising of your intentions would've been appreciated considering the confidentiality of the information in those files.

I believe the office on the 5th Floor has been allocated to a staff member who reports / links to Europe. I also have been told that the staff member spends a significant time out of the office. Michael Conlon asked you why I could not stay in that office considering the unacceptable offer of 108 on the first floor. The response was that some cables have been installed to facilitate that staff member. I am more than happy to cover the costs for those cables to be installed in an other office at my own expense.

To be clear I'm not precious about the office on the 5th floor and am willing to work on any floor, beside any party as long as the office has the required space and natural light. [REDACTED]

I also see that office 138 is vacant however has been allocated for Senator David Norris, while I appreciate the Senator Norris needs to move he currently has a workable office and it would make more sense to allocate him an office when he actually requires it and bearing in mind that there is to be further movement by FF TD's and Senators from LH2000.

If you could please provide me with the written policy or protocols for office space I'd like to review them before requesting a meeting with the chief whip.

I'm confident we can resolve this to all our satisfactions once there is clear and regular communication of the facts and availability.

Please feel free to contact Michael Conlon on 086 [REDACTED].

Kind Regards  
Senator Frances Black

From: [REDACTED]/Polstaff/Oireachtas  
To: Superintendent@oir.ie,  
Cc: Regina Doherty/Members/Oireachtas@HOUSES, mark.o'doherty@taoiseach.ie  
Date: 15/06/2016 16:18  
Subject: \*Confidential: Senator Alice Higgins / Office Accommodation

Superintendent,

I write on behalf of Minister Regina Doherty, Government Chief Whip, regarding office accommodation for Senator Alice Higgins.

The Whip earlier this week had a telephone conversation with Senator Higgins outlining to the Senator that she would have to vacate office 350 and move to alternative accommodation.

My understanding is that Senator Alice Higgins has been offered two alternative offices to 350 LH2000 and has refused to take either.

The Whip has requested that your office organise that Senator Higgins be moved from office 350 LH2000 to the alternative accommodation in Agriculture House.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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Fine Gael Party Administrator  
Tel: 01 6183 [REDACTED] / Room 257B 5-Storey Block  
Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2



From: AliceMary Higgins/Members/Oireachtas  
To: Paul Conway/Staff/Oireachtas@HOUSES,  
Date: 16/06/2016 15:34  
Subject: Re: Office Move

Dear Superintendent,

My previous discussion with the Chief Whip related to a specific concern in relation to a member who had three staff and needed a particular 'square footage'. It was strongly emphasised that square footage was the only driving concern and preference around any party or group was not a consideration. I have been as supportive as possible to this concern and as you are aware, Senator Ruane has now kindly offered to exchange her office, which has the required square footage for the proposed office in Ag House. No other rationale was given for this proposed move.

As you . I have previously accommodated a request to move from the Engineering Building to my current office in LH350. I have also sought to constructively address the concern expressed in relation to square footage. I believe therefore I have been very reasonable and I am not willing to move again. I therefore again underscore that the delivery of crates and proposal to move is not been agreed to or acceptable. Moreover, no justification has been offered.

As leader of a group of six Oireachtas members, I am keen to return my focus to our shared work from the suitable accomodation which I believe LH350 to be

Best Regards,

Senator Higgins