

Minister James Browne  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Re: Financial Supports for Flood-Affected Businesses — Fairness of Eligibility Criteria**

Dear Minister Browne,

On behalf of County Wexford Chamber, I am writing to highlight concerns regarding the eligibility criteria applied to financial support schemes for businesses impacted by recent flooding, particularly in Enniscorthy.

We welcome the Government's decision to increase the maximum level of support to €100,000 following the Enniscorthy flooding. This was an important and necessary recognition of the scale of damage experienced by businesses.

However, the application of employee thresholds to determine eligibility meant that some businesses which sustained significant losses were excluded on the basis of size rather than impact. While we recognise the intention to prioritise smaller enterprises, this has given rise to a perception of inequity within the business community.

Flooding does not differentiate between businesses. In Enniscorthy, the impact was severe and widespread, affecting businesses across multiple sectors, all of whom faced property damage, loss of stock, and business interruption.

We therefore respectfully request that future flooding support schemes adopt a more impact-based approach to eligibility, ensuring that financial assistance is aligned to demonstrable loss rather than employee numbers alone.

We note that we have written separately to Minister Moran regarding the Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme and the broader need for effective and timely flood prevention measures. That correspondence highlights the urgency of progressing long-term infrastructure solutions to reduce the risk and impact of future flooding events.

We consider it essential that both preventative measures and equitable post-event supports are addressed in parallel. While investment in flood relief infrastructure is critical to safeguarding communities and businesses over the long term, it must be complemented by fair, accessible and proportionate financial supports for those affected when flooding does

occur. Together, these elements form the basis of a coherent and effective national response to flooding.

We would welcome the opportunity to engage further with your Department on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Paula Roche  
CEO  
County Wexford Chamber

cc  
Malcolm Byrne T.D.  
George Lawlor T.D.  
Brian Brennan T.D.  
Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin T.D.  
Johnny Mythen T.D.  
Senator Cathal Bryne