26th May 2014

Dear [Insert Name]

I am contacting you to highlight the ongoing situation and to also voice my outrage at the Department of Education & Skills apparent indifference and procrastination with regards to the approval of funding for a single teaching resource required to allow 29 children in the Sligo region the opportunity to receive the best possible primary education through their First National Language of Irish as chosen by their parents.

The school in which these children are enrolled for the school year beginning September 2014 is Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré in Sligo, which is the only Gaelscoil in the county.

There are 59 children in total enrolled for the coming Junior Infants year, with School Enrolment Policy giving preference to siblings of existing or past pupils, and as the school has presently only one teaching resource for Junior Infants class, this means that the choice of the parents of these 29 children cannot be catered for.

I understand that the Department of Education & Skills is presently communicating with other schools in what they have decided is the schools catchment area, in order to establish the number of Junior Infant places available in this area for September 2014, but as Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré is the only Gaelscoil in the county, it therefore accommodates children of parents from the whole county whose parental choice is for Irish Medium Education for their children. It would therefore be unfair to refuse funding for a 2nd Junior Infants Class using figures based on catchment areas rather than parental choice and clear demand, especially as pre-enrolment for 2015 and 2016 is already over subscribed due to the demand for this facility.

While the parents of these 29 children are not disputing the facilities of other schools in the region, their parental choice for their children's education can not be facilitated by the other schools as they are not Gaelscoils.

In addition to the parents choice for Irish Medium Education for their children, it should also be considered the strong focus that Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré has placed on Irish culture & heritage over the years through the promotion of Irish Traditional Music & Gaelic Games, which has always been strongly supported by the community that the school is based in, and around.

I am demanding that the Department acknowledge the constitutionals rights of these 29 children and also the parental choice rights of the parents, for their children to receive their primary education through the medium of Irish, and I would request that you, as a public representative, to personally intervene on behalf of these children and their parents and ask the Minister responsible, Ruairi Quinn, to speedily resolve this issue, to the children's rightful benefit.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_