

From: Jack Horgan-Jones
Sent: 26 February 2016 13:08
To: info@dublincity.ie
Cc: alan.breen@dublincity.ie; Ian Kehoe
Subject: Re: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

I beg to differ. Usually, when a question is answered, the questioner knows that answer. At the moment, I can't write either of the following sentences based on information supplied:

"DCC confirmed that discussions on the two officials' comments with DECLG had taken place before the meeting on 24 December."

Or

"DCC said that while discussions with DECLG had taken place before the meeting on the 24 December, the issue of the officials' comments had not been discussed."

Perhaps you could tell me which of the above is factually accurate, or the sentence I use will have to be "DCC has refused to reveal whether a severe dressing-down given to two senior officials who were critical of new shoe-box apartment sizes was influenced by the Department".

It could even be the headline.

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From: info@dublincity.ie <info@dublincity.ie>
Sent: 26 February 2016 12:48
To: Jack Horgan-Jones
Subject: RE: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

Hello Jack,

I've been advised that Dublin City Council has already answered your latest question.

Regards

Angela

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From: Jack Horgan-Jones [jhorganjones@sbpost.ie]
Sent: 25 February 2016 17:11
To: info@dublincity.ie
Subject: Re: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

Hi Alan,

As per your replies: Discussions held with DECLG on a number of issues of planning policy in general and Any discussions DCC held with DECLG during Christmas week comprised part of the normal discourse on ongoing planning policy between both parties.

Did that include the comments made by the two officials in question? It's a yes/no question as far as I can tell - unless you'd prefer not to comment.

Jack

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From: info@dublincity.ie <info@dublincity.ie>
Sent: 25 February 2016 16:53
To: Jack Horgan-Jones
Subject: RE: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

Hi Jack

Response is as follows:

1. Was there contact between DECLG and DCC regarding the two officials' comments prior to the meeting on 24 Dec?

Discussions held with DECLG on a number of issues of planning policy in general. As a matter of protocol, DECLG was copied on the press release of 22nd confirming our position with regard to the comments made by the our officials. Just to repeat what was stated previously, the decision to have a meeting with the officials on the 24th December was made prior to any communication / contact between the Department and Dublin City Council

2. What was the content of any such discussion?

Any discussions DCC held with DECLG during Christmas week comprised part of the normal discourse on ongoing planning policy between both parties. The sentiments expressed in the press release were taken in good faith by DECLG and it was accepted that the comments made by the two DCC officials concerned, were personal views and not reflective of the views of management in DCC.

Regards
Alan.

Alan Breen

Media Relations & Marketing Manager,
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From: Jack Horgan-Jones [mailto:jhorganjones@sbpost.ie]
Sent: 25 February 2016 14:12
To: info@dublincity.ie
Cc: Alan Breen
Subject: Re: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

Hi Alan,

Just to follow up on this from last week, there's two questions I'd like to address:

1. Was there contact between DECLG and DCC regarding the two officials' comments prior to the meeting on 24 Dec?
2. What was the content of any such discussion?

Cheers

Jack

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Business Correspondent

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From: info@dublincity.ie <info@dublincity.ie>
Sent: 19 February 2016 17:13
To: Jack Horgan-Jones
Subject: RE: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

Hi again Jack

The only thing I can confirm for you is that any contact DCC had with DECLG did not precipitate the meeting with the two officials on 24 December. We would have been in regular contact with DECLG at that time and regularly since with regard on ongoing planning policy issues. So unfortunately, I can't confirm if this matter was discussed by either party.

Regards

Alan

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From: Jack Horgan-Jones [jhorganjones@sbpost.ie]
Sent: 19 February 2016 16:54
To: info@dublincity.ie
Subject: Re: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

Many thanks Alan. For the avoidance of doubt: did DECLG officials contact DCC at any stage in relation to the comments in the IT article of the 22nd?

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From: info@dublincity.ie <info@dublincity.ie>
Sent: 19 February 2016 16:48
To: Jack Horgan-Jones
Subject: RE: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

Hi Jack

Further to your query,

Our decision to issue the statement below dated 22 December 2015 and to interview the two staff members concerned was made prior to any communications between DECLG and the City Council. The meeting of 24 December 2015 was arranged to discuss the comments that were attributed to them in the Irish Times article of 22nd December. The City Council liaises regularly with DECLG on a range of issues involving the work of various DCC departments.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Regards

Alan Breen

Media Relations & Marketing Manager,
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Press Statement

22nd December 2015

The attention of Dublin City Council's senior management has been drawn to comments made by an official of the City Council, and reported in today's Irish Times in response to '**Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments**', which was launched yesterday by Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government.

The comments, while made in a personal capacity, are both inappropriate and regrettable and do not reflect the views and opinions of management of the City Council.

Management of the City Council acknowledges that these new Guidelines are directed at improving housing supply. It is further noted that the Guidelines include a range of new design standards for apartments, many of which are consistent with the changes that have

already been introduced in the Draft Dublin City Development Plan, which is currently under review and out on public consultation.

Ends.

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From: Jack Horgan-Jones [jhorganjones@sbpost.ie]
Sent: 19 February 2016 15:33
To: info@dublincity.ie
Subject: Press query - urgent - Sunday Business Post

As discussed:

- It is our understanding that two officials in the planning department were asked to a meeting on Christmas eve to discuss comments they had made in the national media regarding the new apartment standard guidelines released on the 22nd December

The query is as follows:

- Was there any contact between DECLG, or officials or agents acting on behalf of DECLG, or officials, agents or ministerial advisors from DECLG, and DCC regarding comments to press by these officials prior to the Christmas Eve meeting

and

- Did such contact between DECLG and DCC precipitate or in any way cause the 24th December meeting.

Sincerely,

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Business Correspondent

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