

Newspaper article — local press report — Wexford Echo Newspapers (print edition, 18 October 2016)

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REPORT PARAGRAPH

Paragraph 27 of the report notes that the Review/Report was very controversial and was again covered by the local papers at the time. This Wexford Echo article, published on 18 October 2016, reports directly on the Wexford County Council meeting of October 2016 at which the written report into the acquisition of land in Anne Street for a government office was discussed. The article recorded that the report caused consternation in the Council chamber, that Councillors sought time to study it, and that submissions were invited before a revised report would be brought to the next Council meeting. A related item on the same page recorded that the group of individuals engaging with the Council — with Martin Power acting as spokesman — publicly disputed the adequacy and completeness of the report.

EVIDENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. The article is the primary local press record confirming that the October 2016 Council report on Anne Street was controversial — directly corroborating paragraph 27 of this report.
2. It records that the report caused 'consternation' in the Council chamber and that Councillors, including Cllr. Wadding and Cllr. O'Connell, sought a further meeting with the concerned group before the report was finalised.
3. It records that the Council agreed to accept further submissions and undertook to produce a revised report for the next Council meeting — confirming the report presented in October 2016 was not final.
4. The related article records that the group publicly described the report as 'incomplete' and as ignoring 'glaring anomalies' in the manner in which the site was assembled — including the CPO process on the old County Hotel site.
5. It records that the group had been promised a meeting with the Council once the files were released, but that this request was refused when the files were finally made available in late September 2016 — directly supporting Martin Power's account of events.

KEY PASSAGES FROM OFFICIAL RECORD

"...caused consternation at the October meeting of Wexford Co. Council."

— Anna Hayes, Wexford Echo, 18 October 2016 (main article)

"The group stated that they believe the report is 'incomplete and ignores glaring anomalies in the manner in which the site was assembled', citing in particular the CPO process on the old County Hotel."

— — Anna Hayes, *Wexford Echo*, 18 October 2016 ('Group unhappy with Anne Street report')

"Mr. Power said the group was unhappy that the report was issued without addressing the concerns of the group who had been given access to the files."

— — Martin Power, *quoted in Wexford Echo*, 18 October 2016

RELEVANCE TO THIS REPORT

This source directly supports paragraph 27's statement that the Council report on Anne Street was controversial and was covered by local newspapers at the time. It is also relevant to the broader chronological sequence: it evidences the group's public objection to the report, the refusal of a promised pre-report meeting, the Council's agreement to accept further submissions, and the undertaking to produce a revised report — all of which bear on whether the October 2016 report can be regarded as a final or complete account of the matter.

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Statements and allegations referred to in this summary were made in the course of Dáil proceedings by the named speaker and are reported here as matters raised in Parliament. This summary does not adopt or assert those statements as established findings of fact.

This summary has been prepared for the purposes of the Martin Power public report on the Anne Street, Wexford site assembly. It does not make any legal finding. It identifies the source, summarises the relevant point relied upon, and records its relevance to the Anne Street Report for public-facing evidential reference.