

Dáil Topical Issue Speech — Anne Street, Wexford: Site Assembly Irregularities

Date:	7 November 2019	Author:	Deputy Peadar Tóibín TD (Aontú)
Forum:	Dáil Éireann — 32nd Dáil, Topical Issue Debate	Status:	PUBLIC — no redaction required
Resp. Minister:	Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government		
Relevant Section:	pp. 958–959 of the Official Report (7 November 2019)		
Official record:	https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/debateRecord/dail/2019-11-07/debate/mul@/main.pdf		

REPORT PARAGRAPH

On the 7th November 2019 Deputy Peadar Tóibín also raised the incomplete and inaccurate Review/Report in the Dáil and asked that the Council rectify the Review/Report.

EVIDENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Deputy Tóibín's Topical Issue intervention of 7 November 2019 — more than three years after the October 2016 Review/Report was issued — establishes the following on the official Oireachtas record:

1. The matter remained **unresolved as of November 2019**, demonstrating that the 2016 Review/Report had not provided a satisfactory resolution for the affected parties.
2. Deputy Tóibín identified four specific alleged irregularities in the site assembly: (a) dismantling of title to properties without the knowledge of property owners; (b) a highly irregular hotel purchase that caused significant loss of space to the decentralised Revenue office; (c) failure by Wexford Borough Council to seek a planning amendment to reflect the revised layout; and (d) a Compulsory Purchase Order on the remainder of the hotel site that excluded reference to the CPO process of the actual owner.
3. Deputy Tóibín directly acknowledged and challenged the 2016 investigation: *“the council carried out an investigation into this in 2016. However, the adjoining landowners are seriously challenging this.”*
4. Deputy Tóibín called on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to ensure the matter was **investigated properly and resolved once and for all**.

KEY PASSAGE FROM OFFICIAL RECORD

“There are a number of alleged irregularities with the assembly of a government site in Anne Street in Wexford. It is alleged that the dismantling of the title property was done without the knowledge of the property owners. It is alleged that the highly irregular purchase of the hotel caused a significant loss of space to the decentralised Revenue office. It is alleged that Wexford Borough Council never sought to have the planning amended to reflect the revised layout. It is also alleged that Wexford Borough Council arranged a compulsory purchase order, CPO, on the remainder of the hotel site, but excluded reference to the CPO process of the owner on behalf of the hotel site. The council carried out an investigation into this in 2016. However, the adjoining landowners are seriously challenging this. I urge

the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to ensure that this is investigated properly and is resolved once and for all."

— Deputy Peadar Kirby TD, Dáil Éireann, 7 November 2019

RELEVANCE TO THIS REPORT

This source records a third parliamentary intervention on the Anne Street site assembly, made more than three years after the October 2016 Review/Report. It demonstrates that the 2016 Review/Report failed to resolve the concerns of the affected parties, and that those concerns were still sufficiently live to warrant a further Dáil intervention in 2019. It places four specific categories of alleged irregularity on the Oireachtas record, and explicitly acknowledges that the 2016 investigation is being challenged by the adjoining landowners. It further establishes that as of November 2019 the matter had not been resolved to the satisfaction of those affected.

Official source: <https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/debateRecord/dail/2019-11-07/debate/mul@/main.pdf> — pp. 958–959 of the Official Report, 7 November 2019.

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.