



Dear Landlord,

RE: Complaints regarding house parties in the greater College Road / Magazine / Glasheen Road area.

We refer to the above.

We are writing to you on behalf of three statutory agencies in our capacity of managing the on-going National response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In our country and here in Cork, people have made huge sacrifices across all spheres of life, to save the lives of people who are vulnerable and to protect frontline workers. Frontline workers have repeatedly thanked the people of Cork for their efforts to stop the spread of this deadly virus and urged people to 'hold firm' in our collective efforts to keep our communities safe.

As you may be aware from extensive media reporting, the residents in the greater College Road, Magazine Road and Glasheen Road area have raised legitimate concerns over the on-going house parties by tenants of some of the rented properties within this area. Over the last two weeks or so, the residents have endured on-going parties, primarily in rented accommodation, apparently occupied by students and young people, well into the early hours of the morning.

An Garda Síochána has visited many of the rented properties concerned and witnessed up to 30 persons congregating therein. Many of these people had travelled from outside the previous 2km and then the 5km limit. While these limits are now abolished, there is still a statutory obligation on persons not to gather in any outdoor setting of more than 15 persons or not more than 6 persons not from the same household in any indoor setting. The residents are rightly concerned that these parties may aid the spread of the COVID-19 disease with obvious consequences for the elderly/vulnerable residents of the area. And it is in this regard that we write to you.

We seek your co-operation in addressing and reinforcing the adherence to the Regulations and the Government Guidelines to stop the spread of the COVID-19 disease. We ask that you actively engage with your tenants and stress the importance of complying with the Regulations and Guidelines. You will appreciate the impact of non-compliance of the Guidelines/Regulations by tenants of your property, which may include contributing to and/or increasing the spread of the disease, a disease which the country has succeeded in suppressing thus far.

Aside from the obvious health and economic risks of extending the effects of the pandemic, it must be stressed to the tenants that these activities can directly endanger the health of vulnerable persons either in the community or in their own or their friends' immediate families. None of us wants to be responsible for contributing in any way to the spread of the virus leading to serious illness or death.

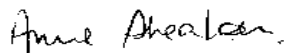
The CMO has clearly advised the public that we cannot be complacent; that we must continue with the guidelines on social distancing and regulations on gatherings etc. and, if we fail to do

so, the infection rate will increase and the steps taken to date to re-open our country may be halted, impacting significantly on our health service and hospital capacity, employment, our economy and the greater good of all citizens.

While a specific complaint may not have been made in respect of a property that you own or manage, we believe that it is important that the local residents' concerns are raised by us with all landlords, and in turn, by the landlords with their tenants.

We would appreciate your cooperation and any assistance that you can give us by addressing these issues with tenants of your property.

Yours sincerely,



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John F. McPolin,

Chief Superintendent,
An Garda Síochána,
Cork City Garda Division.



Ann Doherty,

Chief Executive,
Cork City Council.

11th June 2020