

From: [Tánaiste Harris's Office](#)
To: [Louise McLornan](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Response to your correspondence - DFAT-THO-03294-2025
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Reference No: DFAT-THO-03294-2025

Your Ref No: LM/02.06.2025

Dear Ms McLornan,

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Simon Harris TD, has asked me to thank you for your recent correspondence on the Belfast City Council motion in relation to extending the franchise of Irish Presidential Elections to Irish citizens in Northern Ireland which was passed on to him by the Taoiseach.

A Private Members Bill on Extending Voting Rights in Presidential Elections to citizens in Northern Ireland and the diaspora was debated in Dáil Éireann on 24 May. The Government did not oppose the motion.

As was noted during the Dáil debate, extending voting rights to citizens outside this jurisdiction would require a referendum and the Government continues to reflect on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling O'Boyle
Private Secretary to the Tánaiste and
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade