

The Nationalist

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Tuesday 14 July 2026

Bernard's song book for nursing homes **Page 3**



Fundraising run for Carlow Day Care Centre **Page 13**



Carlow reach All-Ireland Final **Pages 77-79**



Tulow doctor is found guilty of defrauding HSE

A TULLOW doctor has been found guilty of 'systematically' defrauding the Health Service Executive through its medical card payment scheme. Dr Muhammad Waqas Rabbani (45), Tulow Family Medical Centre, The Square, Tulow was found guilty of 13 counts of fraud and not guilty of four counts of fraud after just over an hour's deliberation by a jury at Carlow Circuit Court last Friday.

The offences were committed on different dates between 3 and 29 September 2018 and related to €2,229.72 paid to Dr Rabbani by the HSE the following month.

Judge Mary Morrissey directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty on three further charges due to insufficient evidence. Prosecuting barrister Mark Lynam BL described the offending as "a systemic attempt to defraud the HSE" in his closing speech. He said that claim forms for treatments to medical card patients were created "for the purpose of tricking the HSE" and had never actually been performed.

Forty-eight civilian witnesses gave evidence over the course of the trial to say they had not received the treatment Dr Rabbani claimed they did, which included nebulisers, sutures, cryotherapy and ear syringing. Several also said they did not recog-

nise the signatures on the forms as their own.

Dr Joyce Cooney, the principal medical officer at the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) at the time of the offending, explained to the jury that a person who holds a medical card is entitled to attend their GP for free. The PCRS reimburses the cost of providing the free service to the doctor through a monthly payment and other subsidies.

Additionally, doctors are entitled to claim extra payments each month, said Dr Cooney, for any specialised treatments, such as sutures or nebulisers, or urgent consultations outside normal opening hours of the practice.

Dr Cooney explained that doctors undertake in their contract with the HSE to submit only truthful claims, but that payments are made automatically "completely on a trust basis".

An investigation into the veracity of Dr Rabbani's claims began in October 2018 after the probity division of the PCRS raised a query in respect of them, said Dr Cooney. Dr Rabbani attended a meeting at the PCRS offices in April 2019 and denied making invalid claims, according to notes taken at the meeting and read to the jury. He said he had a busy practice after another doctor had resigned, with more than 14,000 patients, and that he saw up to 75 patients a

day.

After the investigation by PCRS concluded, it notified the Medical Council of Ireland and An Garda Síochána. The Medical Council review was paused pending the outcome of the criminal case.

Det Garda Shields searched Dr Rabbani's practice on Friday evening, 25 February 2022, and Det Garda Philip O'Sullivan subsequently began taking statements from medical card patients of Dr Rabbani.

While there were other employees in the practice nurses who treated patients and receptionists who submitted forms through the PCRS online portal it was the defendant who stood to gain financially from the fraud, said Mr Lynam in his closing speech.

He had also signed off on each form and admitted to making some of the claims late at night, the barrister noted.

Lorcan Staines BL, defending Dr Rabbani, made analogies between the eight years it took the state to bring the case and the slow pace of the asylum system and infrastructure delivery in this country. "It's classic Ireland," he said.

He described the gardai as "dilly dallying" in the four years between the commission of the offences and their interviews with witnesses.

■ Continued on page 2

FAN-TASTIC DAY!



Jasmine Brady tries to stay cool during the Carlow Pride Festival at Carlow College on Sunday. See pages 4 and 5 for report and more pictures

Photo: Michael O'Rourke Photography

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Planning Notices

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL:

Planning permission is sought by TempSide Limited for change of use from an existing retail unit to retail with ancillary off license sales (circa 43.7 sqm), and associated signage for the retail unit and all associated site works, all at Unit 1, Hanover Square, Kennedy Avenue, Carlow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority, Civic Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL:

We, JC Brenco Developments Ltd., intend to apply for planning permission for the construction of 4 no. 3 bedroom semi detached dwellings and all ancillary site works at Willow Park, Tullow Road, Carlow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within a period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL:

We, Ann-Marie Roche & Andrew McEvoy wish to apply to Laois County Council for full planning permission to construct a dwelling house, wastewater treatment area, bored well, new played entrance, and all associated site works at Clonygowan, Ballyfin Co. Laois. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the planning application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

AN CHUIRT DUICHE THE DISTRICT COURT

No. 86
Public Dance Halls Act, 1935
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PUBLIC DANCING LICENCE
District Court Area of Carlow District No. 22
DAVID RATH as Nominee Applicant

TAKE NOTICE that the above-named Applicant David Rath as nominee of Teach Dolmain of 75-76 Tullow Street, Carlow, Ireland intends to apply to the District Court at Carlow District Court on the 23 Sep 2026 at 14:00 for the grant of an Annual Dance Licence at Teach Dolmain, 75-76 Tullow Street, Carlow, situate at 74/ 76 Tullow Street, Carlow, Carlow in court area and district aforesaid, for public dancing.
Dated this 3 July 2026
Signed KEARNEY ROCHE & MCGUINN LLP
Solicitor for Applicant
9 The Parade, Kilkenny

To the Garda Superintendent, at WKC.Carlow.CE@Garda.ie, Carlow Garda Station, Athy Road, Carlow, Carlow, R93 W983

To the Fire Officer, at Fireofficer@carlowcoco.ie, Carlow Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Carlow, Carlow, R93 XE72

To the Co Council Official, at secretar@carlowcoco.ie, Carlow County Council, County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow, Carlow, R93 PH31
To the District Court Clerk, Carlow District Court

Planning Notices

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL:

We, Hengli Xiao & Li Tang, intend to apply for permission for development at this site 12 Kilheale Avenue, Hartwell Lower, Co Kildare W91R7R8. The development will consist of Demolition of the existing front garden wall; Construction of a single-storey side extension with a clipped gable roof and a new garden gate to the side of the existing dwelling, including rooflights, internal alterations, and all associated site works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Kildare County Council, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

AN CHUIRT DUICHE THE DISTRICT COURT

LICENSING (IRELAND)
ACT 1833, SECTION 6
INTOXICATING LIQUOR
ACT 1960, SECTION 29

Case No: D-LIC:-
CARL:2026:005055
Courts Licence No:
LIC-22985
Revenue Licence No:
CAP0124

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER OF A LICENCE
District Court Area of Carlow District No. 22

EDEL O'NEILL, Applicant
TAKE NOTICE that the above-named Applicant Edel O'Neill of Deerpark, Castledermot, Castledermot, Kildare intends to apply to the Annual Licensing Court to be held at the Court at Carlow District Court on the 23-Sep-2026 at 14:00 for the TRANSFER to the Applicant of the Publican's Licence (7-Day Ordinary) licence attached to the premises situate at Castledermot, Castledermot, Kildare, in the court area and district aforesaid.
Dated 8 July, 2026
Signed AB JORDAN
Solicitors
Solicitor for Applicant
College Street, Carlow

To the Garda Superintendent, at KC.KildareSouth.CE@garda.ie, Kildare Garda Station, Kildare, Kildare, R51 VA48

To the Fire Officer, at Fireofficer@carlowcoco.ie, Carlow Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Carlow, Carlow, R93 XE72
To the Kildare Fire Officer, cfo@kildarecoco.ie, Kildare County Fire Service, Kildare County Council, Central Fire Station, Newbridge, Co.Kildare
To the District Court Clerk, Carlow District Court

Planning Notices

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL:

I, John Southern intend to apply for Planning Permission for a development on this site at Martinstown, Suncroft, The Curragh, Co. Kildare. The development consists of (A) construction of a single storey type house, (B) garage / store for domestic use, (C) the installation of a proprietary wastewater treatment system with polishing filter percolation area, and (D) new vehicular recessed entrance with access driveway and all associated site works. That the planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and that a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

NOTICE OF DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Proposed Upgrades to the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station, Carlow, Co. Carlow County Carlow

In accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, Uisce Éireann gives notice of its intention to make an application for a 10-year permission to An Coimisiún Pleanála in relation to the following proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) at the site of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station in the townlands of Mortarstown Upper and Carlow, Carlow Town, Co. Carlow.

In summary, the proposed development will consist of an upgrade to the existing Mortarstown WwTP, including the provision/refurbishment/demolition of various associated structures; decommissioning of existing Kilkenny Road Pumping Station; construction of a new inlet pump station at Mortarstown WwTP; construction of a new microtunnel gravity sewer along Kilkenny Road (R448) between the existing Kilkenny Road Pumping Station and the proposed new inlet pump station; construction of a new outfall chamber and outfall pipe including a microtunnel under the Kilkenny Road (R448); and landscaping, boundary treatment works, an upgrade to an existing borehole, and all ancillary site works above and below ground to facilitate the proposed development.

The existing Mortarstown WwTP has a treatment capacity of 36,000 population equivalent (PE). It is proposed to upgrade the WwTP to increase its treatment capacity to 58,500 PE.

The proposed upgrade to the WwTP will consist of the following:

- Microtunnel Gravity Sewer (785m in length) connecting the decommissioned Kilkenny Road Pumping Station to a new inlet Pump Station.
- New inlet Pump Station.
- Decommissioning of Existing Kilkenny Road Pumping Station.
- New Outfall chamber, Outfall Pipe including a microtunnel for the section crossing under the R448.
- Provision of various new structures at existing Mortarstown WwTP which comprise the following structures:
 - New foul pumping station for local agglomeration adjacent to existing inlet works (supplemented by standby generator).
 - A new fuel storage tank and standby diesel generator to service the WwTP.
 - New inlet works which includes the provision of a new odour treatment unit.
 - 2 no. stormwater storage tanks and 2 no. stormwater return pumps.
 - New primary settlement tanks and new primary sludge pumps.
 - Provision of 4 no. air blowers and modifications to existing air delivery pipework.
 - Provision of new air blower building and new bubble diffused air system.
 - Provision of 2 no. final settlement tanks with half-bridge scrapers.
 - Provision of new Return Activated Sludge (RAS) / Waste Activated Sludge (WAS) pumping station and station fitted with 2 no. RAS pumps and 2 no. WAS pumps.
 - Provision of 2 no. additional picket fence tank thickener.
 - Provision of 1 no. belt press, polymer prep unit and polymer dosing pumps.
 - Provision of new pumped sludge transfer system.
 - Provision of sludge import facility.
 - Provision of minimum 6 no. odour control units.
 - Provision of Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Control and Automation (MEICA) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) upgrades.
 - New storage shed and associated gantry.
- Refurbishment of the following structures at Mortarstown WwTP:
 - Structural refurbishment of picket fence tanks.
 - Mechanical and electrical refurbishment of existing picket fence thickener and conversion of second existing tank to a sludge blending tank.
 - Modifications to existing administration building.
- Demolition of the following structures:
 - Existing inlet works structure.
 - Existing storm tank.
 - Various small chambers within the site.
 - Existing sludge cake transfer facility.
- Decommissioning of the following plant/items:
 - Kilkenny Road Pumping Station.
 - Existing rising main.
 - Existing settlement tanks.
- The installation of ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar panels.
- Diversion of existing ESB 38kV high voltage (HV) overhead lines and 10kV/20kV medium voltage (MV) overhead line on site (to be carried out by ESB).
- The proposed development will also consist of all site development, landscaping and boundary treatment works, an upgrade to an existing borehole; and all ancillary works above and below ground to facilitate the proposed development.

The Proposed Development will be constructed in the Carlow Town Agglomeration licenced under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (WWDA) Regulations 2007 (Discharge Licence No D0028-01). This application relates to a Proposed Development which requires a review of the existing WWDA Licence.

The planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The planning application, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period commencing on the 28th July, 2026 and ending at 5.30pm on the 15th September, 2026 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902
- The Offices of Carlow County Council, County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow, Co. Carlow R93 E7R7
- The Offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Ave., Portlaoise, Co. Laois R32 EHP9

The application may also be viewed on and downloaded from the following website: <https://www.mortarstownwwtp.ie/>

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála ('the Commission') 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period relating to -

- (i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
- (ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out.
- (iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on the integrity of a European Site, if carried out.

Any submissions/ observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Commission not later than 5.30p.m. on the 15th September, 2026. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

- (i) the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent
- (ii) the subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- (iii) the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, refers).

Submissions that do not require a fee, can be made by hand, post, or email to laps@pleanala.ie.

Submissions that require a fee can be made by hand, post, or by the Commissions online strategic infrastructure development submission portal: <https://online.pleanala.ie/en-ie/sid/observation>.

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Commission. The Commission may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details see 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' on the Commission's website www.pleanala.ie)

The Commission may in respect of an application for permission decide to -

- (a) (i) grant the permission, or
 - (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
 - (iii) grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind),
- and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
- (b) refuse to grant the permission.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100). Any person may question the validity of any such decision of the Commission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading 'information on cases/weekly lists - Judicial Review of Planning Decisions' on the Commission's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie