

03 October 2007

New litter fines will give boost to hard working county litter wardens - Kennedy

THE NEW increase in litter fines from €125 to €150 should act as a deterrent to littering across North Dublin, where wardens issued around 1000 fines last year according to new figures from Deputy Michael Kennedy.

Deputy Kennedy said: "I recently acquired figures which show that Fingal County Council's six full-time litter wardens issued more than 600 on-the-spot fines in the period from July to December 2006 alone. Of these, more than 460 fines were paid. The council estimates that over 1000 fines were issued in total last year."

"In addition to these figures, a further 31 prosecutions were brought against residents in Fingal, with 29 successful convictions. The revenue accrued from these fines for the year 2006 topped €123,000."

"However, the expenditure in the same period was over €4 million which illustrates that despite the litter wardens' hard work, the problem is not going away and the council is still spending enormous amounts of money on keeping the county clean."

"Hopefully the introduction of this new, higher fine will show perpetrators of this practice that the Government is serious about combating littering and maintaining the beauty of our country."

"It is my hope that the new fines will be especially affective in North County Dublin, where we enjoy some of the finest countryside in Ireland; countryside with has been kept in impeccable condition by both the private landowners of the area and our hard working litter wardens."

"Our county has such a beautiful heritage, which we cannot afford to see destroyed by mindless littering and fly-tipping. We also have a thriving tourist industry which can ill afford to suffer at the hands of litter-louts," concluded Deputy Kennedy.

See figures below for details:

July - Dec 2006 County Councils	Number of Wardens Full Time	Wardens Part Time	Number of Prosecutions	Number of Convictions	O-T-S Fines Issued	O-T-S Fines Paid
Carlow	1	0	0	0	35	25
Cavan	3	5	4	2	65	28
Clare	3	0	3	0	63	27
Cork South	3	1	18	3	336	175
Cork North	1	2	0	0	67	26
Cork West	1	2	0	0	28	29
Donegal	6	3	16	0	191	63

Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown	3	0	5	3	253	102
Fingal	6	0	31	29	604	467
Galway	0	15	22	3	219	76
Kerry	2	5	16	7	66	32
Kildare	4	0	39	6	556	209
Kilkenny	2	13	0	0	67	45
Laois	3	2	33	11	274	185
Leitrim	0	5	10	2	72	20
Limerick	3	2	8	2	173	95
Longford	3	1	9	4	202	72
Louth	3	0	65	67	294	109
Mayo	1	1	7	10	69	42
Meath	2	24	18	16	175	90
Monaghan	1	8	4	1	60	17
Offaly	4	1	19	1	110	93
Roscommon	2	5	5	2	168	74
Sligo	1	0	13	3	288	134
South Dublin	6	0	72	22	279	175
South Tipperary	3	19	1	1	88	66
North Tipperary	2	1	8	4	10	4
Waterford	3	0	7	1	81	25
Westmeath	0	5	41	4	101	42
Wexford	0	13	23	5	131	83
Wicklow	4	45	5	0	265	164
Total County Councils:	76	178	502	209	5390	2794