



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Cllr. Derry Canty  
Mayor  
Cork County Council  
County Hall  
Carrigrohane Road  
Cork

10 DEC 2009

8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Dear Derry

I am writing to express my solidarity and support to you, your council and all your officials involved in combatting the huge difficulties caused by flooding in your area in recent days. From my contacts on the telephone with County Managers Martin Riordan and other officials in the affected areas I have heard at first hand of the unstinting work on the part of councils and the emergency services in trying to bring relief to the many homes, businesses and farms which have been so cruelly hit by the flooding. I know that a major effort is also underway at Government level, co-ordinated by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and the National Emergency Co-ordination Centre. I would be very grateful if through your good offices a message of my appreciation and best wishes could be conveyed to all your colleagues on the council, to all of the officials of the council, and the personnel of all the other services in your area, for the huge personal effort being put in by everybody in trying to combat this unprecedented challenge. It is clear that there is a big focus also on the maximum co-operation between every agency involved in the effort in order to ensure that the most effective help can be given to those in such terrible need.

It is also very gratifying to hear the many reports of the tremendous effort at community level in local areas and the helping hand being given by neighbour to neighbour. It is hugely gratifying to see that the spontaneously generous spirit of meitheal is alive and well in our country. With the efforts of everybody involved - both at the level of the statutory, emergency and voluntary agencies and of the local communities - we can hopefully get through this and get people back into their homes, businesses and farms as quickly as possible. I wish you well at this very difficult time and I will be staying in close touch with Minister Gormley and his officials as the situation evolves.

With best personal regards

Yours sincerely

Mary McAleese  
President