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19th February, 2021

**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council**

Mr. John Sweeney
President of the Chamber of Commerce
Sweeney Oil
Galway Road
Clifden
Co. Galway

Re: Outdoor Seating in Clifden

Dear Mr. Sweeney

I hope this finds you well in these strange and challenging times.

Congratulations on your recent appointment as President of the Clifden Chamber of Commerce and as the new President, I am writing to you, hoping that we can engage with the Chamber with respect to Section 254 licences.

In these unprecedented times, Galway County Council appreciates the challenges that exist for businesses throughout the county and want to assist wherever possible to help the business community to get up and running again as soon as it is safe to do so and in accordance with Public Health and Government guidance.

With this in mind, we want to ensure a coordinated and agreed approach with respect to the issuing of licences and therefore are asking if the Chamber could assist us in doing so. As the Chamber is the representative body for the business community in Clifden we hoped that you could consult with the entire business community, seek their views and perhaps achieve an agreed position in principle on the provision of outdoor seating/treatment of the cordoning of that outdoor seating etc.

I am happy, along with my colleagues in the Area Office, to liaise with you to discuss any issues /concerns and perhaps reach an agreed position.

You can contact me by email on vlough@galwaycoco.ie or phone at (091) 509216 at any time to discuss and hopefully we can reach a position that is acceptable to all.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Loughnane
**for Planning & Sustainable Development Unit
Galway County Council**