13th October 2026

FAO Fórsa and SIPTU Members

Dear Colleagues

After extensive engagement with local authority sector management, we have agreed to a small number of derogation requests in advance of tomorrow's national public sector stoppage, 14th October 2026. We attach for your information the letter from the LGMA in this regard.

Members are expected to join picket lines, and this has already been communicated to you. Should you require further information, please contact your local representative.

The attached has been **agreed** between unions and management.

Fire and Emergency
Members should join picket lines at their work location.

Housing – Critical Functions
Emergency cover for Housing Critical Functions e.g. vulnerable homeless service users, emergency house repairs, AHBs in line with out of hours cover only.

Members should join picket lines.

Civil Defence

- Emergency response operations
- Search and rescue activities including missing person searches
- Response to adverse weather events
- Emergency management support functions

Members should join picket lines.

Roads

- Traffic and road safety management (incl. traffic light outages, management of road traffic accidents or significant obstructions on roads)
- Public Lighting – in line with emergency out-of-hours service

Members should join picket lines.

Finance

For the purposes of ensuring that workers are paid (in the main those on weekly pay), the following is agreed:

- Two payroll staff in each LA
- MyPay activities reduced to skeleton staff required 6-8

Information and Communications Technology

- Cyber Security
  - Monitoring and response to cyber security incidents
  - Engagement with specialist external contractors where required
  - Cooperation with emergency cyber security responses
- Critical systems
  - Engagement with external service providers to ensure continuity of critical systems, particularly those which support emergency and critical services.

Members should join picket lines and respond as appropriate.

Other

- Provision of **burial and cemetery services** where applicable. This is a public service issue with possible impact on service users causing anxiety.
- **Waste management** LAs to engage locally to identify public safety/health issue requirements (e.g. removal of drugs paraphernalia, hazardous and biological waste).
- **Social care** matters including interaction on emergency matters which arise for service users, with Tusla and with Approved Housing Bodies.
- Harbour Masters and any other essential staff in the event of a Health and Safety issue arising
- Animal welfare – intervention in emergency situations for welfare purposes including feeding of livestock
- Opening and closing of buildings to facilitate attendance of essential staff

We are aware that some local authorities are applying blended working on the day of the stoppage and in one authority have extended it to workers who currently heretofore have been unable to access it. We take attempts to undermine or circumvent the action very seriously and will be taking action against those local authorities. In such circumstances, we will not be granting a derogation regarding the small number of IR/HR people requested to liaise with the union on the day (maximum 2 people) in those authorities.

We have agreed to this at those local authorities who have suspended blended working for the day of the stoppage.

Yours in solidarity

L. Casey

pp. Richy Carrothers
Head of Division
Fórsa

L. Casey

pp Brendan O'Brien
Divisional Organiser
SIPTU