

FROM THE MINISTER



Department of  
**Culture, Arts  
and Leisure**

[www.dcalni.gov.uk](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk)

MÁNYSTRÍE O

**Fowkgates, Airts  
an Aisedom**

AN ROINN

**Cultúir, Ealaíon  
agus Fóillíochta**

Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast BT2 7EG

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9051 5202

Text phone: +44 (0) 28 9052 7668

email: [private.office@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@dcalni.gov.uk)

**Our Ref: SUB/1287/2011**

**23 September 2011**

Mr Ó hÓisín MLA  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
BT4 3XX

A chara Mr Ó hÓisín

On the 13 September 2011 I made a statement to the Assembly on the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) meeting in Inland Waterways sectoral format which was held in Armagh on the 7 July 2011. You had asked a question regarding estimated costs of the restoration of the Ulster Canal.

You will be aware that Waterways Ireland is currently involved in a project to restore part of the canal from Upper Lough Erne to Clones.

I am writing to clarify that the information that I had provided to you referred to the full costs to restore this part of the canal (Upper Lough Erne to Clones).

A 2006 Outline Business Case indicated a capital cost of £171.5m for restoration of the entire canal. This includes site investigation, environmental impact assessment and project management as well as construction costs.

The estimated cost to restore the Clones to Upper Lough- Erne section is €35m. When built, this Department will contribute to ongoing operational costs (estimated at £40,000 per annum).

I trust you find this helpful.

Is mise le meas

**Carál Ní Chuilín MLA**  
**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure**

CC Speaker of the N.I Assembly  
All MLA's  
Assembly Library