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CUTS TO CHILDCARE COSTS TO BENEFIT OVER 150,000

Families across the country are set to benefit from reductions to full time and early learning childcare services, a Senator has said. As of September 1st 2024, all families accessing registered early learning and childcare will receive a minimum hourly universal National Childcare Scheme (NCS) subsidy of €2.14 off their out-of-pocket costs, up from a current hourly rate of €1.40.

Senator Mary Seery Kearney said: "Our goal in Fine Gael is to support families across Ireland by reducing the economic pressures of childcare. These updates to the National Childcare Scheme are a direct response to the needs voiced by parents across the country, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a supportive early learning environment."

"As part of this commitment, families the scheme and acknowledges the diverse receiving the NCS universal subsidy will see a further 25% average reduction in the cost of using full time early learning and childcare services. "For families on the universal subsidy, this will mean up to €5,007 off their annual bill per child. This represents up to an additional €1,731 off the annual cost of early learning and childcare per child following the most recent changes.

"This initiative will ensure that more families can benefit from the valuable early learning opportunities that shape the foundational years of children's lives. "Additionally, starting in September 2024, families using registered childminders will be able to avail of the NCS for the first time-a move that broadens the scope of childcare needs of modern Irish families.

"Fine Gael continues to champion the welfare of Ireland's families, reinforcing its promise to ensure that every child receives the best possible start in life. "This is coupled by €331m Core Funding provided directly to early learning and childcare services works to ensure that providers can continue in their work while providing fee management and financial transparency.

"By reducing the burden of childcare and expanding access to quality services, we are making a strong investment in our children's future and in the economic wellbeing of families across Ireland." Senator Seery Kearney concluded.



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LABOUR PARTY SELECTS CLLR. CIARÁN AHERN IN DUBLIN SOUTH-WEST

The Labour Party has selected Councillor Ciarán Ahern as its candidate in Dublin South-West for the upcoming general election. Ahern is a labour law solicitor and represents Rathfarnham-Templeogue on South Dublin County Council. He was elected to this position in June alongside fellow Labour councillor Pamela Kearns. who together earned nearly 28% of their area's firstpreference votes.

nationally in the most recent elections. In a statement, Ahern said "I'd like to thank my family, friends, and party colleagues for their supportit's an honour to be selected to represent our community and my home in this coming election. I look forward to building on the momentum of our historic local election result, and to advocating strongly for our area in the next Dáil. South Dublin is a wonderful place facing difficult challenges. Year after year, this government

This was one of the Labour Party's strongest showings has failed to provide basic

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public services, and we're falling behind on targets in housing, climate, cost of living, and hospital trolleys. The Labour Party will always fight for investment in our community from decent, affordable homes to proper public transport to workers' rights; all the things Dublin needs for a kinder, fairer, and more sustainable future.'

In a statement, Labour Party leader Ivana Bacik said "We're delighted to have Ciarán represent us in Dublin South-West for this upcoming election. Ciarán is a devoted and dedicated community volunteer, activist, and county councillor, with a strong background in the law, and I'm looking forward to seeing him take on the challenges of national politics.

I look forward to campaigning alongside him, both during the election and in Leinster House, for an Ireland that works for all."



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PUBLICLY FUNDED HRT SCHEME A "GAME CHANGER" FOR WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

L

Local Fianna Fáil Councillor Costello Teresa has welcomed reports that her party colleague, Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly, plans to introduce a publicly funded hormone replacement therapy (HRT) scheme. Under the scheme, the Government would cover the cost of HRT medication being available to those who need it.

Cllr Costello said: "The publicly-funded HRT scheme will be a game-changer

for women's healthcare. This is hugely welcome news. "There has been an increase in demand for HRT medicines in the last number of years, both due to public information campaigns run by the Government and to the work of many individuals, organisations and public representatives in highlighting the need for better menopause care for women.

"However, women have faced issues in using HRT medicine, from access to cost disparity. "These issues are in addition to the already challenging experience of menopause. It represents a significant change in the reproductive system and brings with it a lot of other symptoms. everything from hot flashes to weight gain, hair loss, anxiety, depression, sight loss, arthritis and diabetes.

"The scheme would put an end to the barrier posed by costs in accessing effective essential healthcare and

treatment. Women are faced with costs of €30 to €70 per month for HRT, the cost of a GP visit which can be between €60 and €80 and the cost of having to have to go to a consultant which could be hundreds of euros for one consultation. "Publicly-funded HRT is an investment in the individual health of those women who access the medicines as well as in the health of families and entire communities.

look forward to the details of the scheme being

published in the coming weeks.

"The scheme is the latest example of Fianna Fáil's

commitment in Government to supporting women's healthcare and removing barriers to access wherever we can."

GOVERNMENT FAILING TO DELIVER SOCIAL HOUSING IN SOUTH DUBLIN

TD Mark Ward has said that the government is failing to deliver social housing after new figures showed that 19,884 people in South Dublin are on social housing lists or in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). Deputy Ward added that the only way to start fixing Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael's mismanagement of the housing crisis is with a change of government, a Sinn Féin Minister for Housing and Sinn Féin's alternative housing plan.

Teachta Ward said "Figures released in recent weeks show that 19,884 people in South Dublin are on housing lists or in receipt of HAP. This is further evidence of the government's inability to fix the housing crisis and their failure to deliver social housing for those who need it. "The report, published by the Parliamentary Budget Office, estimates that the number of social homes across the state must be increased by 56 per cent just to meet the current deficit, yet only last month Taoiseach Simon Harris inexplicably claimed that a sufficient volume of social housing was being delivered.

"These figures rubbish the Taoiseach's claim and show just how out of touch he and his government are when it comes to their failures to address the housing crisis. "But none of this will come as a surprise to those struggling to put a secure and affordable roof over their heads. Fine Gael has been in government for 13 years, Fianna Fáil have been propping them up for the last eight years.

"Two weeks ago alone, three independent reports were released by the Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland, the Central Statistics Office and Savills. These reports once again highlighted that the government's housing plan is not working. "The three reports highlight sky high house prices, chronic undersupply and the growing affordability challenge for working people looking to rent or buy a home.

"During all of that time, house prices, rents and homelessness have risen to historic highs. Meanwhile, the delivery of social and affordable homes has been unacceptably low. "Sinn Féin has an alternative housing plan that will priortise the delivery of social and affordable housing to the level that is required. That is why we need a general election, a change of government and a Sinn Féin Minister for Housing.'

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MATTRESS AMNESTY **& WEEE RECYCLING DAYS 2024**

South Dublin County Council in partnership with Recycle IT will be holding recycling days within the community over the next number of weeks inviting householders to avail themselves of free Mattress and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling.

Collections will take place at the following locations between 10:00am and 1:00pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 14th August - Tymon Park Car Park, Limekiln Road, Dublin 12 Wednesday 21st August - Quarryvale Community Centre Car Park, Greenfort Gardens, Dublin 22 Wednesday 28th August - Rathcoole Community Centre Car Park, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin Wednesday 4th September - AGPo (Lucan Harriers) Car Park, Newcastle Road, Lucan, Co Dublin Wednesday 11th September- Tymon Park Car Park, Castletymon Road, Dublin 24 Wednesday 18th September - Killinarden Community Centre Car Park, Killinarden, Dublin 24

Alternatively, mattresses or waste electrical and electronic equipment can be dropped off Monday to Friday, from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Recycle IT Facility at Crag Terrace, Clondalkin Industrial Estate, Dublin 22, D22 TK37.









€1M PROGRAMME NEEDED TO STOP YOUTH VAPING 'EPIDEMIC'

A dedicated quit vaping service is urgently needed to save thousands of teenagers lifelong nicotine from addiction, campaigners insist. In its pre-Budget submission, the Irish Heart Foundation said dedicated support is vital to help young people quit one of the most addictive substances on the planet. The charity also wants the price of cigarettes increased to €20 a pack and promised new taxes on vapes set at a sufficient level to deter young people from starting to use them.

"We know that many young people are looking for help to quit vaping and from programmes in the US that when such help is available, it can be highly effective," said Irish Heart Foundation Director of Advocacy, Chris Macey. "Failing to provide this support in the face of a youth vaping epidemic the State has not done enough so far to prevent, would be tantamount to abandoning

thousands of teenagers at of youth vaping, has helped risk of long-term addiction."

Mr Macey said the HSE is continuing to receive calls across all its stop smoking services from people looking for help to quit vaping. But despite growing demand, he the said Ouit.ie isn't resourced to provide the service, which requires different approaches than traditional smoking cessation services to be most effective. The Irish Heart Foundation also pointed to data from youth information and support platform, Spunout, which has received thousands of views of its webpage on the health effects of smoking and vaping - with the search query 'how to quit vaping?' the biggest driver of traffic to this content.

The charity also said that a US programme, 'This is Quitting', launched by public health NGO, the Truth Initiative, to counter the rise

over 750,000 young vapers.

"Vaping can affect teenage brain development, damage blood vessels, cause high blood pressure, changes in heart rhythm and have serious effects on the respiratory system," said Mr Macey. "Worst of all, research shows it is a gateway to smoking, which is still claiming 12 lives every day in Ireland, making it our biggest cause of preventable death. "Our concern is that the increase in vaping, relentlessly marketed to teenagers with around teenagers 16,000 different flavours, will increase smoking rates and expose our young people to premature death from tobacco-related diseases."

The Foundation is also calling for a budget allocation of over €1 million to develop vaping prevention information campaign and a research programme to inform the development

а vaping cessation of programme. It wants an increase of €3.25 in the price of cigarettes to bring the cost to €20 per pack.

Mr Macey also said smokers should be given more help by the State to quit - while they pay €1billion in additional taxes, annual anti-smoking

measures amount to just €17million.

The charity's full pre-Budget submission at irishheart.ie.



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SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL'S DECISION TO REJECT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR GOOGLE'S NEW DATA CENTRE IN CLONDALKIN

People Before Profit welcomes the news that South Dublin County Council rejected planning has permission for Google Ireland to build a new data centre at Grange Castle Business Park in Clondalkin. Insufficient national grid capacity and lack of renewable energy are among the reasons for refusal. Gino Kenny TD said "The development of new

data centres will make it next to impossible for Ireland to meet its climate targets. The average data centre uses the same amount of electricity as 23,000 homes. By 2028 they are expected to use 27% of all electricity in Ireland.

This is also putting a huge strain on our electricity grid and may lead to

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rolling electricity blackouts according to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)." He added "They use between 500,000 litres and 5 million litres of water a day. In Dublin our water supply is already under a huge amount of strain and Data centres will only increase this."

Cllr Darragh Adelaide said "According to the Guardian,

up to 88% of what is stored in the cloud is considered junk data that will not be accessed again by users. Apps, websites and cookies track our day-to-day activities, this information is stored and sold to other businesses. Data centres provide very few jobs but take large amounts of resources from our local community."

Cllr Madeleine Johansson added: "Last Summer Councillors South on Council Dublin County voted in favour of my motion to ban further data centre development in the area, currently half of all data centres in Ireland are located here.

however, the government undemocratically overturned this decision.

Much like the housing crisis, the government is more interested in the profits of big investors and big business than the needs of our communities or the environment. It is hugely welcome to see that the council have rejected this application and are listening to Councillors and the community."

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Lidl Ireland's brand-new store on Main Street Upper in Newcastle, Dublin was officially opened recently by Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Captain Carla Rowe. Crowds gathered early to be amongst the first shoppers across the door to enjoy opening day entertainment and exclusive in-store offers.

The highly anticipated new store offers customers a premium shopping experience, with a modern fit out including high ceilings, wide aisles, and a large sales floor. The first ten shoppers through the doors received complimentary vouchers to shop Lidl's renowned range of high-quality products at market-leading value, and huge savings on middle aisle favourites.

To mark the opening, the store team in Newcastle including Christine, Donal Fahey and the store's Manager Dawn Hayden are pictured here presenting a donation voucher cheque for €1000 to John Kinsella from neighbouring St Finian's Community Hall. The volunteer-led group run the local facility for the benefit of the whole community, providing a welcoming space for everyone to socialise and avail of support.



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TALLAGHT SCHOOL STARTS ACADEMIC YEAR WITH LIFESAVING CPR SKILLS

A number of Dublin schools are beginning the new academic year with an Irish Heart Foundation award for training their students in the lifesaving skill of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

students Local from Kingswood Community College in Tallaght were one of the schools to receive CPR 4 Schools awards, which recognise schools, teachers and students for remarkable efforts in CPR promotion and training. They were among 36 schools across Ireland presented with 57 awards as part of the national heart and stroke charity's CPR 4 Schools programme.

Since its inception, 2,630 teachers in 649 post-primary schools have taken part, learning how to deliver CPR and giving the programme a reach of over 350,000 postprimary school students. The charity aims to build a generation of life savers by

training students to perform CPR and respond in a cardiac emergency, use an AED (defibrillator) and respond when someone is choking.

"We implemented the CPR 4 Schools programme in Larkin Community College for the first time this year," said Larkin Community College CPR 4 Schools Co-ordinator, Johanna O'Dowd. "In March, ten staff undertook the training online and in just three months, we have empowered 75% of our student body with the invaluable skills of CPR, AED usage and other life-saving techniques. "We believe that by equipping our students with these essential skills, we are not just shaping their futures but also potentially saving lives. "This initiative marks a significant step towards creating a safer and more prepared community."

Brigid Sinnott, Resuscitation Manager with the Irish Heart Foundation, said the charity

is delighted to recognise schools, teachers and students. "Every year we are blown away by the work and commitment of schools to teach the lifesaving skill of CPR. "We know that schools are busy places but they are making CPR a priority for their students and the impact is seen in their homes and communities.

"The Irish Heart Foundation's mission is to build a nation of lifesavers through CPR training and schools are vital in helping us to achieve that. "These schools are, quite literally, the beating heart of the programme and are recognised for empowering students with a vital lifesaving skill."

A person's chance of survival is doubled when CPR is started immediately. By learning CPR once in your life, you are 10 times more likely to respond to an emergency than someone who has never received

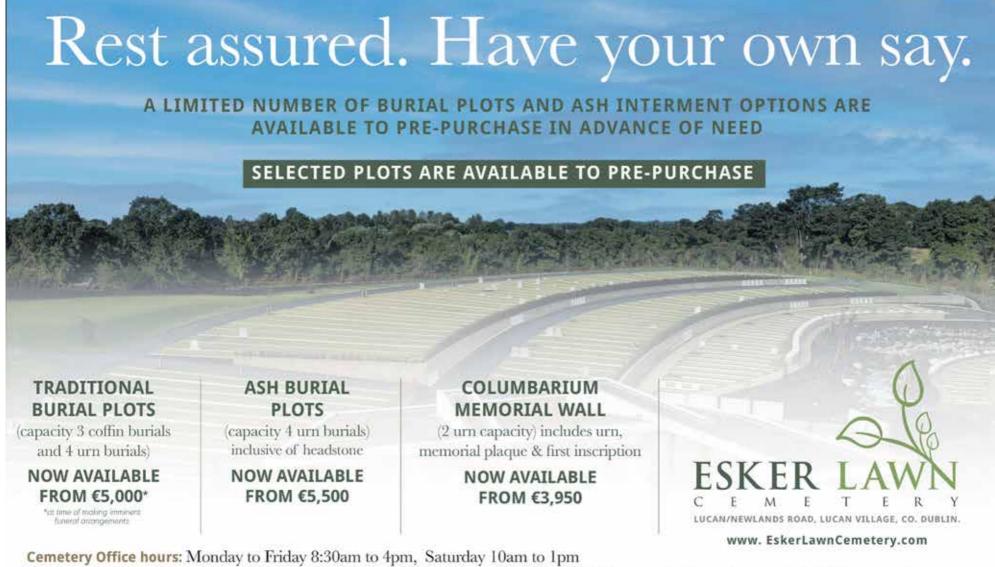
training. Designed to embed within the school curriculum, the Irish Heart Foundation's

Post-primary school teachers interested in signing up CPR 4 Schools programme is for the free programme easy to run and takes just can register by emailing:

schools@irishheart.ie.

To find out more about CPR 4 Schools, visit irishheart.ie/ cpr4schools.





For further information or to arrange an appointment please contact: 083 165 8604 or email all enquiries to: info@EskerLawnCemetery.com

KISHOGE STATION FINALLY OPENS ITS DOORS The long-awaited Kishoge National Transport Authority crucial link for commuters. "I am thrilled that trains will

Station officially opens its doors recently, coinciding a significant improvement in with larnród Éireann's new rail timetable adjustments, announced by as

(NTA). This milestone marks public transportation for the Lucan area and surrounding the communities, providing a

Local TD and Minister for Employment, Business. and Retail, Emer Higgins, speaking at the launch said,





finally be stopping at Kishoge Station." "Since my time as a local Councillor and now as a TD and Minister, I have consistently advocated for the completion and opening of Kishoge Station with the NTA, larnród Éireann and the Minister for Transport. Its opening, which was delayed by the economic downturn, is now a clear indication of our recovered and strong economy under this Government and our commitment to ensuring that much needed infrastructure is delivered hand in hand with new housing developments."

Higgins further highlighted the significance of the new station for local residents, stating, "Kishoge will greatly enhance our local improving infrastructure, connectivity, delivering critical service for а commuters and providing much-needed relief to traffic congestion. With 40 trains running each way, Monday to Friday, this is a major step forward".

"Alongside Cllrs. Vicki Casserly and Caroline Brady, we have strongly advocated for Kishoge to be opened,

and as more new homes are built in our area, this station will be of immense benefit to local residents both existing and new. This is a significant milestone for Dublin Mid West, especially for the communities of Lucan and Clondalkin who have eagerly awaited this addition to our public transport network." "The opening of Kishoge Station represents an investment of almost €10 million and complements the existing Adamstown and Clondalkin stations.

Kishoge Station will now serve as a key stop for most Heuston and Phoenix Park Tunnel Commuter Services, offering residents enhanced connectivity to Dublin city and beyond." Higgins concluded.

TD CALLS FOR A RESOLUTION TO LUCAN LODGE NURSING HOME IMPASSE AFTER SPIRALLING COSTS TO THE HSE

People Before Profit TD has called for the HSE to find a long-term resolution for the future of Lucan Lodge Nursing Home. In May of this year the HSE took over the operational status of nursing home after the the previous care provider went into liquidation. Over the summer the HSE

stated that all residents who were residing in the nursing home would be found alterative appropriate accommodation. To date there is still fifteen residents in the nursing home. The HSE announced in July that there were numerous issues with the building, and this was not conducive

NEW SEASUN

Looking for a great new hobby? How about Photography? Palmerstown Camera Club is starting up again on September 4th and every Wednesday from 8pm in Palmerstown Parish Centre. New Members are always welcome.

The club are also starting a beginners course for 6 weeks from Wednesday 2nd Octoberat 7pm- 8pm. Phone cameras also suitable. This course is free with your annual membership free of 125 euro for the year September to May.

They run talks, workshops, outings, annual weekend away and competitions at 3 different levels (Novice, Intermediate and Advance). Come along and check us out for free on one or two Wednesdays in September and see if you would like to join and also do our beginners course. Check out on Facebook/ Instagram 'Palmerstown Camera Club'.

to residential nursing care. There continues to be ongoings protest by family members of those residents still residing at Lucan Lodge. Dublin Mid-West TD Gino Kenny has raised this issue with the HSE and the Minister over the last three months said," The situation at Lucan Lodge Nursing Home is very unsatisfactory. A resolution needs to be found by all parties involved. In a response to a parliamentary question, I submitted to the HSE regarding costs that the HSE has accrued since taking over the facility , the HSE stated that from the 17th of May to the end of June that additional direct costs accrued were 600K. Obviously this is an enormous amount of money that the HSE are liable for after the previous private care provider failed in their operational obligations. Considering the costs thus far it would be in the interest of the HSE and residents to consider taken over the facility so it could be used for public use in the immediate and long term".

NUNC RENTS POLICY HUR H

Councillor Willima Local Caret recently highlighted Dublin County South Council's rents policy. In a recent example of the effects of the new rent differential policy, the cost to one family has seen their rent increase from €70 to €236 per week.

However, with the additional surcharge being added of €147 it has now risen to a total of €383 per week. This represents a massive 62.3% increase at a time when increase in rent pressure zones are limited to 2%. As a result of a new policy on assessing household rents, larger families are struggling to meet the new levels imposed by SDCC. These new rent assessments imposed by FF/FG led council came into effect from 1st April 2021.

The effects of which are only now beginning to hit home with tenants whose children are now entering the workforce. These assessments are beginning to cause huge stress on families struggling to pay these additional costs. The differential rent scheme has

always meant that as family income rose so to would the rent they pay. Rents are assessed on all income going into the home.

However, the new policy is aimed at adding a surcharge of an additional 10% of income to be levied upon families. This policy has meant that families whose income had grown above qualification base lines would be hit with an additional 10% surcharge. In effect all income brought in by adult children in a household is now subject to a 20% differential rent. This is a doubling of the rent that they would reasonably be expecting to contribute to the family home.

This is exorbitant rent even in the private sector whereby a family with 5 adults and additional children in the home could be paying such levels of rent to the local authority.

In the height of the Covid pandemic Fianna Fail and Fine Gael pushed through these changes in SDCC rent

differential scheme. This resulted in what is seen as punitive charges been levied upon families with adult children living at home. This also includes charges upon those teenagers and youth who take up part time jobs to support themselves as they progress through school.

Cllr William Carey has been hugely critical of this policy and raised this during the November 2020 debate on the annual budget. Cllr Carey continued, "I identified the problems that this policy would raise including the unfairness of it and pointed to the unjust nature of the additional charges being levied. I also made clear that the increase would have a detrimental effect on family dynamics and that these increases would land on the shoulders of some of our lowest paid workers, ie, young worker's entering into the jobs market".

November 2020 at Cllr Carey added "I had a motion before the 2020 budget meeting opposing this measure which was defeated by 23 votes to 14. Those who

opposed my motion were led by the Fianna Fail/Fine Gael coalition and supported by Green party including Joanna

Tuffy of the Labour party (see below copy of motion taken from minutes of 2020 Budget meeting). Cllr Carey finished by noting that in the past 5yrs since rental income in SDCC has risen from €26m to €31.2m pa".

JOHN MULLEN COLLECTION OF MATERIAL

Pictured in County Library, Tallaght, at the launch of the John Mullen Collection of Material relating to the North of Ireland Peace Process were Former Cllr. Eamonn Maloney, Michael Walsh, John Mullen, Anne Hanrahan (Tallaght Historical Society), Sean Crowe TD, and former Cllrs. Charlie O'Connor and Lilian Gueret.

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UNDER RESOURCED COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE SECTOR FAILING RESIDENTS OF DUBLIN SOUTH WEST

Sinn Féin Councillor for Tallaght Central has criticised Government's chronic lack of underfunding into the community healthcare

sector across Dublin South a constituent who received a West.

Cllr Whelan stated: "I was contacted in recent weeks by

RHASIDAT ADEI **MAKING HISTORY**



Pictured is Olympian and Allianz ambassador, Rhasidat Adeleke after making history at the Olympic Games Paris 2024. At her first Olympic Games, Rhasidat became the first Irish woman to reach an Olympic sprint final. Allianz are proud to be global and local partners of the Olympic movement, announcing the renewal of their partnership with the Olympic Federation of Ireland last month, reaffirming their commitment to supporting Irish athletes on their journey beyond Paris 2024. Mandatory

Credit ©INPHO/Morgan Treacy

letter from the HSE stating that the Public Health Nursing Service is moving to priority status in their area due to staff shortages, meaning they must prioritise the services that are provided by them. The letter stated that the PHN service would not be in a position to deliver a routine health and development assessment for this person's child.

Developmental checks provided by the PHN service are critical for parents, particularly new in identifying parents. potential developmental delays in young children. This is yet another area that Government have underfunded chronically and left decimated by the recruitment embargo implemented by the HSE from October '23 to July '24.

This is just one of many cases I'm dealing with where the community healthcare sector is not providing the service it is supposed to provide to the community, pushing people into the private sector, creating further financial strain. This Government have refused to put the proper resources in place to tackle this crisis to reduce the strain on people who require their service"

MATEO RANKED NO. 1 IN UNDER 15'S IN IRELAND FOR BLACKBALL POOL

Marrone, from Mateo Rathcoole has just turned 13 years old. Mateo started playing 8-ball pool about a year and a half ago. He began competing with the Irish Pool Association & The Blackball Federation of Ireland a year ago.

He has come on leaps and bounds in his first season of competitive pool, and as a result finished the season as number 1 ranked under-15s in Ireland for Blackball Pool. He has taken to this sport like a fish to water. The Rathcoole student, has been invited to play for Irelands 'A-team' in the World Championships, Malta. The competition takes place in November.

Mateo has played for Rathcoole FC since he was 5 and has recently started secondary school at Holy Family Community School. Mateo's Dad Dan, commented on how proud the family are "We are all extremely proud of his achievements".





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ensuring the safety and

educational progress of

EDUCATION & TRAINING FEATURE STUDENTS REITERATE OPPOSITION TO PLANS FOR A MOBILE PHONE BLANKET BAN The Irish Second-Level a blanket ban. The ISSU are needs of all stakeholders. second-level schools. 'There students were not consulted

Union Students' (ISSU) cannot support the proposed plans of a blanket-approach phone ban across secondlevel schools in Ireland announced by Minister for Education, Norma Foley T.D.

A system where students would have their phones removed for the school day is one that the ISSU cannot support, as there are major logistical concerns surrounding it. Furthermore, the majority of schools already have strategies in place to combat extensive use of mobile phones.

Speaking recently, Jack McGinn Uachtarán of the ISSU said "The proposal of a blanket phone ban in second-level schools is not feasible. It means adding another responsibility on the system to police phone usage. It could also mean

schools having to accept responsibility for the safety of up to 1,000 mobile phones each day. No consultation has been made with relevant stakeholders regarding this.

Mobile phones are often used during the school day for educational reasons too, with Junior Cycle CBAs and Leaving Certificate projects in subjects' requiring use of the internet. The Department of Education should focus on expanding the IT Support Grant to enable schools to purchase more IT facilities for students."

An t-Oifigeach Oideachais/ Education Officer of the ISSU, Emma Cox, stated "This decision has not been made in consultation from expert groups, including feedback from the Irish Second-Level Students' Union, as there are valid concerns raised that are not being addressed by

AN COSÁN OPEN DAY FOR ADULTS LOOKING TO RETURN TO EDUCATION

was a lack of engagement on this matter. The ISSU

with second-level students. stands ready to work

Education policies should collaboratively to find a

student-centric, yet solution that balances the

An Cosán is hosting an Open Day in its community education centre in Jobstown, Tallaght, on Wednesday 4th September 2024 from 9.30am to 7pm.

in the process of arranging

a consultation with Minister

Foley to discuss this proposal

regarding smartphones in be

Visitors will be able to enrol on one of An Cosán's many FREE access (foundation) courses and to find out about its support services. These include FREE early years' education and care, IT support and laptop loans, counselling and parenting support. There will also be the opportunity to chat to some of the

tutors and find out more about the (see ad for full list). many courses on offer.

An Cosán is the perfect starting point for adults returning to education. Its courses are designed to support adult learners to gain the skills and confidence needed to progress in education and work, and improve their wellbeing.

Many of the courses on offer provide support in areas like health and well-being, personal development, computer skills, and positive ageing

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students.

If you cannot make it to the Open Day, feel free to call in any time, phone 01 4628488 or email courses@ ancosan.ie.

Further details on www. ancosan ie.

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Return to Learning Horticulture

ST KEVIN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES RECORD-BREAKING LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUCCESS

St Kevin's Community College is celebrating a landmark achievement as Leaving Certificate the and Leaving Certificate Applied results for 2024 exceed all expectations. The entire school community is buzzing with excitement as students, teachers, and families come together to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the graduating class.

This year, the college has once again set new

records, with an impressive number of students scoring exceptionally high points. The standout performer, Corsak Ma, achieved an extraordinary 613 CAO points with an incredible 5 H1s and 2 H2s, a feat that has been met with widespread admiration. This is the highest Leaving Certificate result in the school's history.

Principal Tony Barry expressed immense pride in the students' achievements, saying, "We are absolutely



Pictured are Debbie Doyle (teacher), Jonathan Kennedy, Braydon Johnston, Kyle Carpenter O'Rourke and Barbara Hogan (teacher)

thrilled with this year's results. The hard work, dedication, and resilience displayed by our students and teachers have truly paid off. The Class of 2024 has raised the bar, and we couldn't be prouder of them."

In addition to Corsak Ma's exceptional performance, a significant number of students scored over reflecting 450 points, the college's ongoing commitment to academic excellence. Particularly inspiring are the achievements of students who have overcome personal adversities. Among them several who are have recently arrived in the country, mastering English as a second language and achieving nearly 500 points.

These students have faced and conquered the challenges of adapting to a new education system while living in temporary accommodation, including hotels and refugee centres, throughout their Leaving

Certificate programme The success story continues with the college's Leaving Certificate Applied class, where two students earned distinctions-the highest possible grade-and the remainder of the class achieved merits, the secondbest grade. These results underscore the hard work and determination of the students and the unwavering support and dedication of their teachers.

As the students eagerly await their CAO offers next week, the college celebrates not only the academic successes but also the incredible journeys and perseverance of its students. Kevin's Community St College continues its upward trajectory, with improved Leaving Certificate results year on year, and remains a leading institution in helping students secure college places in large numbers.

Principal Tony Barry added, "The accomplishments of our students this year are a



Pictured Shannon Brogan Palmer, Elle O'Keeffe and Kelly Tuohey

testament to the supportive and inclusive environment at St Kevin's. Our teachers have gone above and beyond to ensure every student had the opportunity to succeed, and the results speak for themselves. We wish our graduates the very best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives." The Class of 2024 has set a new standard for excellence at St Kevin's Community College, and their success is sure to inspire future generations of students to aim high and achieve their goals.



ADULT AND FURTHER EDUCATION AT ST. KEVIN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE. CULINARY AND NUTRITION LEVEL 4 AND 5

St Kevin's community college provides the perfect starting point for adults returning to education. Its courses are designed to support adult learners to gain the skills and confidence needed to progress in education and work and improve their wellbeing. You will develop skills and confidence to enable you to look forward to a brighter future!

All courses are free of charge to students and take place during the day. We provide a high level of support and mentoring to students on an individual basis. Other services include

IT support, personal development, IT skills and laptop loans. Optional ESOL classes are provided.

Following successful completion of this course, students can progress to University or enter directly into the workforce. Work experience forms an integral part of the course. You can drop into the school to chat to some of the tutors and find out more about the courses on offer.

Feel free to call in anytime, phone 087 2237557 or email adulted@stkevinscc.ie

Inchicore College is a leader in further success. Their industry experience and clo

education, offering courses in Creative and Performing Arts, Business & Computers, Sport. Nursing, Pre-Paramedic and Healthcare, Social Care & Psychology, Early Learning and Care and Tourism. With no tuition fees, students pay only a €50 registration charge. Renowned for its friendly, welcoming atmosphere and excellent range of innovative courses, Inchicore College takes students to the next level of their education and career pathway. Employers value Inchicore College graduates for their professional knowledge and skills including teamwork, flexibility, decision making and creativity.

The Team - The highly qualified staff at Inchicore College work together for students'

success. Their industry experience and close links to their fields ensure students receive an educational experience tailored to their needs. Small class sizes and flexible teaching methods make learning a personalised adventure.

Erasmus + - Inchicore College hosts the largest Erasmus + programme in City of Dublin ETB, with students visiting countries such as Sweden, The Netherlands, Slovenia, France, Spain, Italy and Finland.

For students considering college options for 2024, Inchicore College offers the very best of courses with proven pathways to employment and higher education. Look no further. Open Information Day - September 6th, 11 am - 2 pm

CATHAL BRUGHA FET IN THE HEART OF DUBLIN Cathal Brugha FET is in heart Education courses opening NO Leaving cert points

Cathal Brugha FET is in heart of Dublin 1 in two campuses on Marlborough Street & North Strand.

QQI or PLC courses usually take just one academic year, offering a work ready qualification eg. SNA, Legal and Medical Admin, Beauty. The college also offers you another route into Third Level instead of repeating your Leaving Cert! Many PLCs are Pre- University type courses with University links.

QQI courses can prepare you to apply for new Apprenticeships e.g. Finance, Insurance, Logistics etc. QQI courses use a continuous assessment approach-everything does not depend on final exams like the Leaving Cert. A year to widen horizons...progress to colleges outside Dublin, abroad... A route to Higher Education from LCA.

QQI links to new Higher

www.bfei.ie

01 288 9717

office@bfei.ie

NO Leaving cert points required. And SUSI grant may apply.

ENROL WITH BFEI As the dust settles on CAO offers, many students will be

As the dust settles on CAO orrers, many students will be disappointed that they didn't get their first choice. At Blackrock Further Education Institute students can enrol in Pre-University Law, Psychology, Arts, Business and IT courses and take the subject matter for a test run.

Why jump in with both feet and commit to a degree course if you are not certain it is the right one for you? Students can sample the course material, see if it really is what will keep them motivated to pursue a degree. Making an informed decision about the direction their education and career will go in, as well as learning from experienced teachers how to write papers, how to reference and get hands-on work experience, these are just some of the skills BFEI can develop. Students can then use their results from these courses to apply for degree courses, as many successful candidates have done for decades.

Or students could do something totally different for a year? Study Sports Massage or Holistic Therapies, these skills would never be wasted. Or why not follow in the footsteps of Jennifer Rock and study Beauty Therapy in BFEI.



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3 out of 4 BFEI graduates who applied to CAO got offers in 2023

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UMON CITYWEST NOW OPEN

Citvwest Celebrates Learning and Community

Citywest Shopping Centre, Dublin, August 14th, 2024 The new Kumon Citywest Centre officially opened its doors yesterday with a grand ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Citywest Shopping Centre in Dublin. The event, attended by the centre's students, their families, and local dignitaries, marked a significant milestone in the community's educational

Grand Opening of Kumon landscape. The Lord Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Baby Pereppadan, had the honor of cutting the ribbon, symbolizing the beginning of a new chapter in the educational journeys of many local children. Audrey Kelly, the dedicated Instructor at Kumon Citywest, expressed her excitement about bringing this globally recognized learning method to the area.

> Kumon, an international education franchise with



over 60 years of history, is renowned for its unique approach to learning, which focuses on developing strong academic foundations and independent study skills in children. With centers in over 50 countries, Kumon has built a reputation for helping students achieve excellence in mathematics and reading through personalized learning programs.

"The Kumon Method students empowers to become self-learners, which is crucial in today's fastpaced world," said Kelly. 'We're thrilled to offer these proven techniques to the children of Citywest and look forward to seeing them grow and succeed."

The event was a vibrant celebration of community and education, with students and families enjoying the festivities and looking forward to the opportunities that the Kumon Citywest Centre will bring to their academic lives.

Kumon Citywest is now open for enrollments, welcoming students who are eager to build their confidence and academic skills under Audrey Kelly's expert guidance. Please visit https://www. kumon.ie/citywest or call 085 772 5333.





COLLEGE CHOICE - A DIFFERENT PATHWAY WITH BRAY INSTITUTE **OF FURTHER EDUCATION**

New B.A Degree in **Immersive Media Production**

Year 1 - 2 in BIFE Year 3 - 4 in IADT No CAO Points No Tuition Fees in BIFE

Apply Now

Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) are full steam ahead preparing for the new academic year and to prove it, they are taking applications for their new BA (Hons) Degree in Immersive Media Production.

This level 8 degree programme runs in conjunction with the IADT, the first two years in BIFE with the final two years being run in the IADT. This exciting new degree will encompass various forms of media including virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and 360-degree video. No CAO points are required to do this degree course. You just simply apply to BIFE directly at www.bife. ie. BIFE will not charge any tuition fees for this degree course but do hurry as places are limited.

While in many cases students, schools and parents see the CAO as the 'be all and end all' for those seeking third-level education, nothing could be further from the truth according to Gabriel Allen, deputy principal at Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE). "Over recent years many new avenues, like the Immersive Media Production Degree above, have opened up to students to enable them to pursue their dream career via a different route. We have over 70 fulltime courses to choose from, all progressing on to Higher Education Institutes in Ireland and abroad", according to Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen.

He added, "Further Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the required CAO points, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes."

The huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, not only for those looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment but also as an alternative route on to a college course in a university or institute of technology in Ireland or abroad.

Over the past few years, graduates of BIFE have achieved honours degrees across a wide range of programmes, opening up a myriad of career opportunities from graphic design to performing arts to psychology.

This year BIFE will offer Higher National

Diplomas in the following:

- Fine Art Art Practice
- Acting • TV & Film production
- Music Production
- Music Performance
- Graphic Design

As Gabriel Allen explained, "These six courses will allow graduating students to proceed to the final year of an honours Degree Programme in Ireland or Britain if that is their ultimate ambition."

This year, the Institute has launched several new courses at levels 5 & 6:

- CompTIA A+ (Level 5)
- Special Needs Assistant & Disability Studies (Level 6)

• Digital Marketing & Entrepreneurship (Level 5)

Work Experience is a vital part of the BIFE courses and now all students in the College have the opportunity to complete a 3-week or a 3-month work placement abroad in countries such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, Finland, Malta or France under the Erasmus+ Programme which is sponsored by the European Union. This is a terrific opportunity for BIFE students, not only to gain valuable work experience in a European country but also to experience a different culture and broaden their horizons.

Allen assured that mature students have many opportunities to study and progress at BIFE. "All courses have valuable certification and offer progression routes to Higher Education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute."

To discover more about the courses available at BIFE, prospective students are invited to attend their Open Day on Monday 26th August from 10 am to 3 pm.

A BIFE bus service is available every day with pick-ups in Gorey, Arklow, Wicklow Town, and Rathnew.

Apply online at www.bife.ie or call the Institute any day during office hours at 01-2829668 for further information between 9 am and 4 pm. There is no application fee.

IF YOU DIDN'T GET ENOUGH CAO POINTS **BIFEs' Got Your Back:** Check out our OPEN AFTERNOON,

Wed 11th September, 4 to 5.30pm

BRAY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION **Dedicated** • **Professional** • **Passionate**

ART

- KF Art, Craft & Design level 4)
- Art Portfolio Preparation Art, Craft & Design (Level 5) KA
- KB **Fine Art Practice** KC
- KE **Creative Craft**

DESIGN

- Graphic Design DA
- DD Architecture Design & Technology Jewellery Making & Woodcraft
- DI
- Furniture Design & Carpentry/Joinery DC **Fashion & Textiles**
- Garden Design DK
- Furniture Design & Cabinet Making (Advanced) DJ

MUSIC

- **DJ Techniques & Music Production** MI
- MJ Music Production MK Music Performance
- Sound Engineering
- Traditional Irish and Folk Music Performance MN
- MPUTING & ENGINEERING
- NA Computer Software Development
- NB Computer Science
- NC Computer Networks and Cyber Security
- Computer A+ Operating Systems ND
- NE Digital Arts & Creative Media NF
- 21st Century Skills for Work Engineering Pre-University HV
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www.bife.ie

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- Early Learning & Care / Childcare Supervision in Early Learning & Care / Childcare HF
- HE Social Studies & Community Care

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- FH Barbering
- Nail Technician & Salon Administration FD FC Fashion Theatre and Media Make-Up

- HS Forensic Science - Pre-University
- HK
- Science Pre-University Food Science with Dietetics Pre-University HZ JF Pharmacy Assistant
- JJ Pharmacy Technician
- Applied Ecology and Biodiversity Studies Brewing and Distilling Technology HU
- LJ

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- HW

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for International Students

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MOTORING LIFE WITH KGM KORANDO E-MOTION OFFERS SILENT FLEXIBILITY



By Breda Corrigan

The South Korean vehicle manufacturer previously known as SsangYong has now rebranded as KGM following an acquisition by the KG Group in 2022. In keeping with SsangYong's recent history, the new company's main focus is on the development and manufacture of Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) and Crossover SUVs, along with its transition to battery-powered vehicles. The Korando e-Motion is the first fully-electric vehicle from KGM, and its presents itself as a competitively-priced mid-size SUV that offers a perfect balance of performance, practicality and comfort.

Spacious & Practical Cabin.

The new Korando is far removed from its predecessor and is decidedly more capable and likeable than before too. With an overall length of 4.45m, a height of 1.63m, a width of 1.87m (excluding door mirrors), and ground clearance of 17cm, the new Korando makes quite an impact on the road. Externally, the e-Motion distinguishes itself from its petrol and diesel counterparts with a smooth front panel in place of a traditional grille, aerodynamic bumpers, and blue trim accents. Inside, the car features a spacious and practical cabin with a 12.3inch digital driver's display and centrally-located touchscreen. With lots of head and leg room for all occupants, along with a 551-litre boot volume that can be expanded to 1,248-litres with the rear seats folded, the e-Motion is sure to appeal to families as well as drivers who enjoy an active lifestyle.

Best-In-Class Body Structure.

In terms of safety, the Korando e-Motion benefits from a bestin-class body structure that is composed of 77% high-tensile strength steel for enhanced crash protection and occupant safety, while 8 airbags also come as standard. Additionally, a host of safety and driver assistance systems have contributed to the Korando being awarded a full fivestar Euro NCAP crash test rating. Such systems most notably include Advanced Emergency Braking (AEB) which is operated through a camera and radar set-up to apply brakes automatically in the event of an emergency. Also included is Lane Keep Assist and Driver Attention Alert in an effort to further assist the driver and provide peace of mind. black leather upholstery. The electrically-adjustable leather seats up front can be heated or

Performance and Range.

The Korando e-Motion is powered by a single, front-mounted electric motor delivering 188bhp and 360Nm of instant torque, and it can accelerate from 0-100km/ h in under 8.5 seconds. This performance is perfectly adequate for everyday city and motorway driving, and drivers can choose between Eco, Eco Plus, Comfort and Sport drive modes if they wish to sharpen the driving experience, prioritise comfort or enhance battery efficiency. The car features a 61.5kWh battery (55.3kWh usable), offering an official WLTP range of up to 344kms, which is competitive in its market segment. With a maximum charging rate of 100kW, the e-Motion can complete a 10-80% charge in approximately 33 minutes, with a 30-100% charge at a domestic (7kW) wall box charger taking around 7 hours.

Test Car.

My KGM Korando e-Motion test car was finished in Grand White paintwork with contrasting

electrically-adjustable leather seats up front can be heated or cooled, and it is easy to find a comfortable driving position too. The spacious cabin is impressive in terms of its construction, with plenty of soft-touch materials used throughout. There is ample room in the second row of seats for three adults, and both outer seats are fitted with ISOFIX childseat anchorage points. The layout of the dashboard is uncluttered and logical, and it is clear to see that the interior features are centered on driver comfort, safety and satisfaction. The customisable digital information screen in front of the driver is very clear, and the centrally-located infotainment screen blends in seamlessly with the coherent cabin design. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity comes as standard, as does HD navigation, Bluetooth and a six-speaker smart audio system. Thankfully, the temperature control system in the Korando is accessed via dash-mounted dials and buttons, so changing the temperature and the direction of air travel is a simple and effective task.

The Korando e-Motion offers an Government EV incentives).

impressive driving experience with responsive steering and a slightly firm ride, which provides good body control when driving on twisty back roads. It includes a three-stage regenerative braking system controlled via steering wheel paddles, although it lacks a full one-pedal driving mode found in some other EVs. The Korando's overall ride quality is quiet for the most part, and driving at slow speeds is effortless. Wind and road noise does become more evident at motorway speeds, but it is nothing more than is to be expected from a relatively high-riding SUV.

Verdict.

The refined, spacious and wellequipped KGM Korando e-Motion provides buyers with the practicality and versatility of an SUV, along with the low running costs related to EV ownership.

A 5-year, unlimited mileage warranty comes as standard, along with a comprehensive 7-year EV battery warranty. Contact any one of KGM's 21 dealerships nationwide to arrange a test drive. The Korando e-Motion is priced from ξ 37,500 (inclusive of current Irish Government EV incentives).

LAUNCH OF NEW SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY **COUNCIL ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

New Electric Council Vehicles were launched recently by the Mayor of South Dublin, Councilor Baby Pereppadan. South Dublin County Council is delighted to add three new electric vehicles to their Fleet. This is part of SDCC's Fleet Decarbonisation strategy to achieve its commitment to a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

EV's will assist in the pursuit of achieving these goals and will help to transition the transport requirements of the Council away from traditional methods such as diesel or petrol-powered vans and trucks. Electric Vehicles offer a reduction in air pollution and carbon emissions, promoting sustainability and tackling climate change, whilst offering whole life cost saving.

Two of the vehicles are being assigned to the Dog Control unit, these are replacing older

diesel fuelled vans and will support the Dog Warden Service in looking after stray and unwanted dogs and enforcement in relation to the Control of Dogs Act.

They have been purchased with the support of funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Dog Control Support initiative. The third electric vehicle will support the Active South Dublin programme in delivering its mission to achieve Active and Healthy lifestyles for all in South Dublin and has been partly funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

To achieve its Climate targets, the Council will introduce more electric vehicles and alternative fuelled vehicles into the council's fleet. The priority will be for vehicles that are fit for purpose and help to reduce emissions and protect the environment.



€22.5 MILLION INVESTMENT BY IRISH COMPANY ATC ANSPORT E

ATC Computer Transport & Logistics (ATC), a leading company providing Irish highly specialised transport, logistics, and technical services to hyperscale data centre operators, hightech freight forwarders, equipment and original manufacturers worldwide, has today unveiled a landmark investment of €22.5 million over five years to support its company wide 'Driving Green Strategy' including the ongoing transition of its HGV fleet from traditional combustion engines to battery-electric power.

The announcement, which is one of Ireland's most significant private investments in a zero tailpipe emission transportation fleet, positions the business as a global leader in the Green Logistics sector. It is also an important milestone in ATC's ambitious target achieving net zero of by 2030. As part of the announcement, ATC has recently taken delivery of five state-of-the-art batteryelectric Volvo HGVs and two additional Volkswagen ID. Buzz's for their Irish cloud logistics and technical services operations, adding to their European fleet of 142 vehicles.

integrated into the European fleet.

ATC availed of the Zero Emission Heavy Duty Vehicle (ZEHDV) Purchase Grant Scheme, funded by the Department of Transport and administered by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, to support the acquisition of battery-operated HVGs for the Irish-based fleet. The €500,000 grant is awarded to facilitate companies and enterprises who wish to purchase zero-emission HGVs. Headquartered in Baldonnel. ATC has a footprint across Ireland. Europe and New Zealand, with major offices in Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and London. Employing over 250 people from over 31 nationalities, the business plans to increase headcount to 300 by 2026, and add two further international offices.

As pioneers in the cloud logistics and technical services industry, ATC has significantly strengthened its commitment to its 'Driving Green Strategy' this year to create a more sustainable business model for the future. The business has grown its 'Driving Green Strategy' to assist clients in reaching their own sustainable goals by reducing Four further battery-electric emissions across services and

Volvo HGVs have also been decarbonising the final mile of customers' supply chain.

> The 'Driving Green Strategy is designed to help ATC clients gain visibility of their carbon emissions in their Scope 3 emissions for subcontracted transport and logistics services. ATC works with clients to design decarbonisation strategies, ranging from strategic supply chain management and sustainable warehousing, to alternative fuels, zero emissions, and waste and recycling management. The 'Driving Green Strategy' enables clients to implement emissions reduction options into their operations without constraining business growth.

> Keith Managing Young, Director of ATC, says: "Today's announcement is a significant milestone for ATC, and we are incredibly proud to be at the forefront of a more sustainable future in the logistics industry. Since ATC was founded 45 years ago, customer service, quality, and innovation have been at the heart of what we do and now, with these investments, sustainability is also at the very heart of what we do.

> By integrating state-of-theart battery-electric vehicles into our operations, we are

reducing our environmental impact and enhancing the efficiency of our services across Ireland and Europe. ATC will continue to be an important partner for our clients as we continue working together to meet their sustainability goals by decarbonising the final mile of their supply chains."

Rainer Hoerbst, Head of Green Logistics at ATC, says: "ATC's investment in zero tailpipe emission vehicles is a significant step towards meeting our net zero 2030 targets. The addition of five new battery electric Volvo HGVs to our global fleet positions us at the forefront of green logistics both at a national and international

level. ATC is aligning with global environmental standards and setting new Green Logistics targets.

By transitioning to a greener fleet, we are helping our data centre clients to decarbonise their supply chain, showcasing that a more sustainable business model is possible for the logistics business. It also proves for our business that decarbonisation can be decoupled from economic growth. As a result, we look forward to seeing this investment's positive impact on our operations and clients.'

James Lawless, Minister of State at the Department of Transport and at

the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, says: "This significant investment by ATC is a strong testament to the private sector's role in driving Ireland's transition to a low carbon economy. The move towards zero emission HGVs is crucial in achieving Ireland's climate goals, and it's encouraging to see industry leaders, like ATC, take proactive steps to be more sustainable. This announcement not only supports our national sustainability targets but also sets a benchmark for others in the transport and logistics sector."

Visit www.atc-logistics.com to learn more about the ATC



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O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succour me in this necessity; there are none that can withstand your power. O, show me herein you are my Mother, O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3 times) Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times) I.O.B

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