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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SHORTAGE MEANS EVEN SOME PRIORITY CASES CANNOT BE SEEN

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has said that the severe shortage of Public Health Nurses and Community Registered General Nurses means that even some Priority One nursing duties are unable to be carried out across Dublin South West and further afield.

Teachta Crowe said that the problem was especially acute in the Dublin 12 area where a waiting list is now in effect as they do not have the staff to be able to prioritise cases. Teachta Crowe said "Public Health

Nurses and Community Registered General Nurses are a vital cog in care in the community.

From offering assistance to expectant mothers and newborns to helping treat the chronically ill or providing palliative care, they are simply invaluable when it comes to delivering healthcare in our communities. They literally see us from birth into our later years.

"However, there are nowhere near enough of them. Healthcare professionals in

the Dublin South West area were informed this week that staffing levels have fallen below 50% and this is having a catastrophic impact on how they are able to provide services. Across Dublin South West, from Rathcoole to Drimnagh, a 'Prioritisation Procedure' has been put in place so that only the most urgent cases will be seen.

"In Dublin 12, there aren't even enough nurses to deal with those priority cases and a waiting list has had to be put in place. This is simply not good enough. It is damaging to patients and

deeply unfair to the nurses who know these patients individually and feel an enormous duty of care towards them.

"The last election saw the Minister for Health lose his seat. That should be a wake up call to government that they have allowed things to move beyond even crisis point. We need to radically improve matters by investing in Public Health Nurses and Community Registered General Nurses and give them the support and resources they need to deliver care in our communities."

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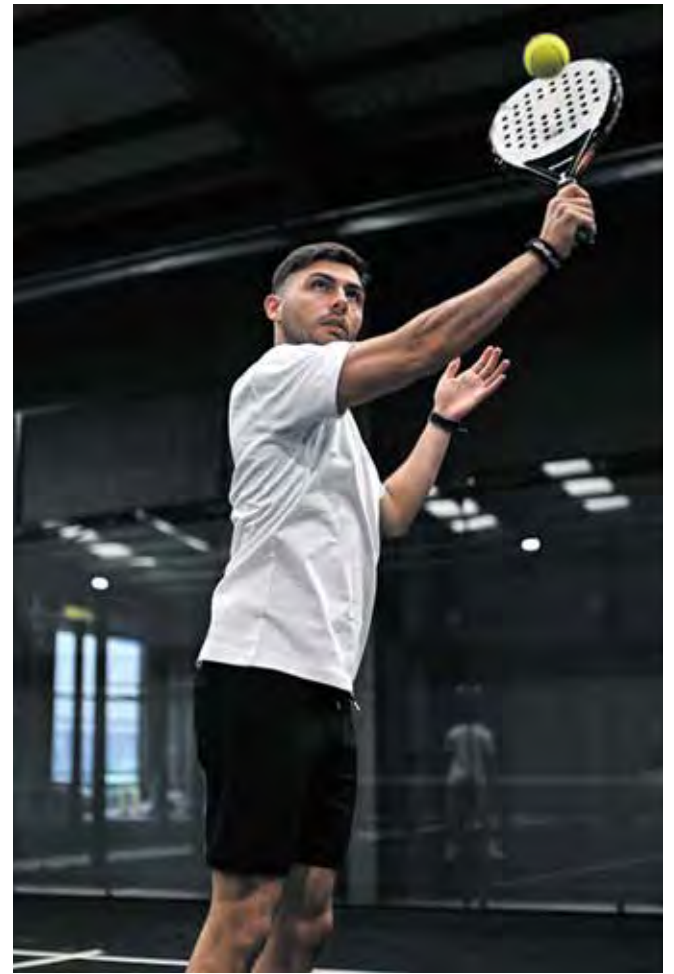
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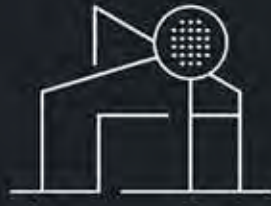


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FIRST COUNCIL IN HISTORY OF STATE WITH MAJORITY FEMALE MEMBERSHIP

Following the recent General Election which resulted in three South Dublin County Councillors being elected to Dáil Éireann, three new Councillors, Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave (Labour), Cllr. Jacqueline Sheehy (Fianna Fáil) and Cllr. Helen Farrell (Independent) were co-opted at a Special Meeting of the Council on 19th December.

With the addition of Councillors Farrell and Sheehy, South Dublin County Council is now the first Council in the history of

the State to have majority female membership, with 21 women now representing 52.5% of the Council. The Local Elections in June saw 19 of the 40 local Council seats in South Dublin going to female candidates, which was the then highest proportion of women on any Council in the country. With today's co-options, that representation now exceeds 50% for the first time for any local authority in Ireland.

Speaking at the Special Meeting of the Council, Cllr. Alan Hayes, Deputy Mayor of

South Dublin said: "I want to wish my former colleagues the best as they take their seats in Leinster House. I would also like to welcome our newest colleagues to the chamber. Today is a significant day, one which shows the women of South Dublin that their voice is heard louder than ever in this chamber."

I would also like to commend the current and former female Councillors who have paved the way for this historic moment, particularly former Councillor Breda Cass, who had the honour of being the first woman in South Dublin elected as Mayor in 1995."

Colm Ward, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council. Added: "Congratulations to all three newly co-opted Councillors. Today is a notable milestone for us as a Council and for local government in Ireland - to have majority female membership on the Council reflects how progressive

and diverse our County is and builds on the work of our Women's Caucus which supports continued and new female participation in local politics. Our Public

Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Framework commitments will see us continue to support greater opportunity for all to engage in local democracy,

particularly those from minority communities or who feel marginalised, to ensure that our Council is representative of everyone in South Dublin."



Pictured Deputy Shane Moynihan, Cllr. Jacqueline Sheehy, Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave, Deputy Ciarán Ahern, Cllr. Helen Farrell and Deputy Paul Gogarty. Newly elected TD's from South Dublin with newly co-opted Councillors.

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SDCC PARKS PROVIDE A BENCHMARK AT BARCELONA ACCESSIBILITY EVENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Following the Special Mention Award for accessible play at the EU Access City Awards, South Dublin County Council were invited by Barcelona City Council to share their approach to accessibility and natural

play at an event in the Saló de Cent, a magnificent Gothic-style chamber in Barcelona City Hall on the 3rd of December.

The event, hosted by the Mayor of Barcelona,

marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities and highlighted the city's forward-thinking initiatives in accessibility and their willingness to continue learning from other cities. With over 700 playgrounds in their administrative area, Barcelona is deeply invested in improving the play experiences of disabled children, including those with Autism.

In recent years Barcelona has committed to radically redesigning their city for people and nature. Their pioneering work on superblocs, green corridors, and inclusive public spaces has offered inspiration to other local authorities including SDCC in how to balance human and environmental needs while fostering accessibility and biodiversity.

The approach of South Dublin of bringing children into contact with nature through play aligns very well with their approach and they were particularly

interested in the benefits of natural play to children with Autism. It's very motivating to draw inspiration from one

another in creating urban environments that work better for everyone. This celebration underscores

Barcelona's ongoing commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable society.



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The side walls are 7'1" going up to 8'7" at the apex. There is at least one clear panel in the roof, to allow in natural light. All our garden sheds come with a 40" wide single door. At an additional cost 6' 10" wide double doors are also available. A wooden floor is a very popular optional extra with all garden sheds.

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Shed Size	Price	+ Timber Floor	+Wood Grain
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10' x 9'6"	€2,450	+€350	+€350
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13'4" x 12'6"	€3,300	+€600	+€450
16'8" x 9'6"	€3,300	+€600	+€450
16'8" x 12'6"	€3,900	N/A	+€510
20' x 9'6"	€3,900	N/A	+€510
20' x 12'6"	€4,550	N/A	+€590
23'3" x 12'6"	€5,840	N/A	+€630
26'6" x 12'6"	€6,340	N/A	+€675
29'9" x 12'6"	€6,700	N/A	+€770



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6'9" x 4'6"	€1350	+ €175	+ €175
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SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL LAUNCHES HIGH PROFILE COFFEE SHOP & COMMUNITY EVENTS SPACE AT TYMON PARK, TEMPLEOGUE

South Dublin County Council is commencing a tender process to secure an operator to manage a new-build, Intergenerational Centre with a distinctive architectural design and floorspace of approximately 157m².

This new development is situated in Tymon Park facing onto the Wellington Lane car park. The selected operator will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the community space and café providing an excellent opportunity in a high-profile area of Tymon Park. The new development sits adjacent to the existing entrance and car park and will consist of A multi-functional, intergenerational Community Space. Cafe & Associated Kitchen, WCs, Storage and Services. And Terrace for outdoor seating

overlooking the park

South Dublin will welcome applications from established coffee shop operators and those who share a vision to revitalise the area and those who express an interest in managing the events space. With planning permission in place, construction for this new development is underway and due to complete early 2025 and South Dublin County Council are welcoming expressions of interest through a public procurement process for an operator for the new Intergenerational Centre.


Registration must be made through the OGP's E-tender system www.etenders.gov.ie. Further information can be requested by emailing developdept@SDUBLINCOCO.ie.



SCHOOLS INVITED TO COMPETE FOR 'IRELAND'S FITTEST' TITLE




A call has gone out to schools in Dublin, and elsewhere across the country, from one of Ireland's best-known Olympians, sprinter David Gillick who has joined forces with Fyffes once again in a quest to find 'Ireland's Fittest School 2025'. Aimed at promoting the importance of exercise, fitness and healthy eating amongst young people, a central feature of the programme will be a series of exercise routines - recorded by Gillick, alongside Irish fitness trainer, Sharon Flanagan - which competing schools can adopt as part of their PE curriculum and against which performance will be measured and tracked online. Running for 10 weeks from January 20th, the upcoming competition will see a new element introduced in which the top four schools from each province will compete head-to-head across four live regional qualifier events in April. The top school from Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster will then progress to May's grand final at which the prize package will include €8,000 worth of sports equipment. Previous 'Ireland's Fittest School' winners were Donegal's Scoil Na Croise Naofa, Dunfanaghy (2022); Meath's Gilson National School, Oldcastle (2023) and Waterford's Touraneena National School (2024). School registrations opened on January 6th and further details can be found online at www.fyffesfittestschool.ie



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

MUSIC

- MI** DJ Techniques & Music Production
- MJ** Music Production
- MK** Music Performance
- MF** Sound Engineering

COMPUTING

- NA** Computer Software Development with AI
- NB** Computer Science
- NC** Computer Networks and Cyber Security
- ND** Comptia A+

SPORT

- EA** Sport, Exercise & Fitness Instruction
- EC** Personal Trainer, Strength & Conditioning
- ED** Soccer Coaching & Sports Management
- EF** Sports Injury & Massage Therapy / Pre-University Physiotherapy

ANIMAL CARE

- HA** Animal Care
- HI** Animal Care & Management Pre-University
- HJ** Animal Science Industry
- HX** Equine Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES & CHILDCARE

- OA** Special Needs Assistant (Primary & Post-Primary)
- OB** SNA & Disability Studies (Level 6)
- HD** Early Learning & Care / Childcare
- HE** Social Studies & Community Care

HAIR, BEAUTY & WELLNESS

- FJ** Professional Make Up & Hairstyling
- FF** Hairdressing - Junior Stylist
- FG** Hairdressing - Senior Stylist
- FH** Barbering
- FD** Nail Technician & Salon Administration

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

- HS** Forensic Science - Pre-University
- HK** Science - Pre-University
- HZ** Food Science with Dietetics - Pre-University
- JF** Pharmacy Retail Assistant
- JJ** Pharmacy Technician
- HU** Applied Ecology and Biodiversity Studies
- DK** Horticulture & Garden Design
- HV** Engineering Pre-University

BUSINESS

- JA** Business Management & Administration
- JC** Business Management - Advanced Certificate
- JD** Accounting Technician
- LD** Business Tourism Advanced Certificate
- SD** Legal Administration Pre-University Law
- SF** Medical Administration (Mornings Only)
- SE** IT & Office Administration (Mornings Only)
- JT** Digital Marketing and Entrepreneurship
- EE** Security & Pre-Garda
- JP** B.Bus (Hons) Business & Psychology

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

- LA** Tourism, Reception & Event Management
- LH** Restaurant & Bar Management
- LC** Culinary Arts
- LE** Culinary Arts Advanced
- LG** Pastry, Baking & Barista
- LI** Hospitality & Business Management (Level 6)

ADULT LEAVING CERT

- RB** Adult Leaving Certificate

HEALTH

- HB** Nursing and Midwifery Studies - Pre-University
- HH** Healthcare Assistant
- HP** Occupational Therapy Assistant
- JK** Emergency Care Studies (Pre-paramedic, Fire & Ambulance)
- HL** Psychology in the Community (Advanced)

FILM & COMPUTER GAMING

- MA** TV & Film Production
- MB** TV & Film Production - Advanced
- ME** 3D Game Design
- MC** BA (Hons) Immersive Media Production Degree
- MG** Games Development

ACTING & DANCE

- PB** Acting for Stage & Screen Advanced
- PE** Dance Technique, Performance and Choreography - Advanced

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BIFE PREPARE FOR NEW FET COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

Plans are moving ahead for the new Further Education and Training (FET) Building at BIFE since the Taoiseach recently gave the green light for its development. It will mean that a state-of-the-art education and training campus, costing tens of millions of euros will soon be created, which will also deliver apprenticeship programmes and establish a proposed National Centre of Excellence in Film & TV. The college also envisages moving to a joint degree model in several areas which would enable students to move seamlessly between further and higher education.

BIFE has been going from strength to strength over the last decade and is now one of the country's largest colleges of further education. They offer over 80 different courses in many different subject areas. They have signed agreements with all of the Universities in the South-east region allowing their students to progress seamlessly to higher education on completion of their course in BIFE. Their graduates also have the

opportunity to gain advanced entry onto higher education degree courses and in some instances complete an honours degree with one extra year of study in Higher Education Institutes.

Work Placement is a vital part of 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, Poland, Italy, Finland, Malta or the Czech Republic under the Erasmus+ Programme which the European Union sponsors. "This is a terrific opportunity for our students" according to Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen, "not only to gain valuable work experience in a European country but also to experience a different culture and to broaden their horizons". BIFE hopes to add several new countries to their Erasmus+ portfolio with partners in Athens, Istanbul, Berlin & Austria coming on board in the future.

Bray Institute will be holding its Grand Annual Open Day again this year on Friday

24th January from 10am to 3pm. Potential students, parents, and career guidance teachers will have the opportunity to speak to the staff and students who, with

their educational knowledge and specialist industry experience, can guide you in the right direction. Workshops, demonstrations, presentations, and career

lectures will run throughout the day, and visitors can speak to students and get their views on the courses. Applications for September

2025 Courses are now open. Apply online at www.bife.ie or call the Institute any day during office hours at 01-2829668 for further information.

COILLTE LAUNCHES ITS 2025 FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Coillte launches its 2025 Forestry Scholarship Programme, offering up to €20,000 per recipient, along with paid summer placements and career opportunities. Following the success of the 2024 initiative, which supported three students, the scholarship aims to attract top talent to study forestry at UCD, Dublin and SETU, Waterford addressing the growing need for skilled forestry professionals in Ireland's drive for environmental and economic sustainability.

Pictured at the launch were inaugural scholars Aine O'Dwyer (Donegal), Mia Sibbald (Kildare), and Alex Power (Waterford), with Managing Director, Coillte Forest, Mark Carlin.



Pic: Naoise Culhane

OPEN DAY 21st January 2025 (4:00pm - 7:00pm)

Applications for September 2025 Now Open



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VW ID.7 IS A HIGH-TECH ROAD-TRIP CHAMPION



By Breda Corrigan

Volkswagen's latest electric family saloon is the strikingly-designed ID.7. Like all VW ID. models, the ID.7 is built on the VW groups' MEB electric vehicle architecture. Loaded with new technology, it has a spacious interior, and offers both a 77kWh and 86kWh battery capacity, depending on which model is selected. It is almost five metres long from bumper to bumper, and a little over 2 metres in width, with a swooping roof that makes it look slick and sporty from every angle. Striking Silhouette.

Despite the fact that the ID.7 has the lowest roof of any of the VW ID. electric models, inside the cabin there is plenty of space, with ample legroom and headroom for up to 5 occupants. Helping to make the cabin more airy is a model-dependent, full-length glass roof with smart glass, where the layers of glass in the sunroof can be electronically switched between opaque and clear via a slider in the roof. The spacious, upmarket cabin is dominated by a 15.0-inch colour touchscreen, mounted high up on the dash. Underneath are some touch-sensitive buttons, which are backlit so you can see what you're doing at night. The software operates a lot like a smartphone, there is a configurable homepage with various widgets, and two rows of shortcut keys that can be swapped out to give quicker access to the functions mostly used. The massive central touchscreen is complimented by a narrow driver information display behind the wheel.

This shows the important information relating to speed, range and warnings, while other functions such as navigation instructions

can be viewed through the head-up display. Material and build quality throughout the cabin is excellent. The front seats have been certified by the German Campaign for Healthy Backs (AGR) and are multi-adjustable, with four-way lumbar support, and an extendable seat base to help support longer legs. They are also heated, and come with a massage function as standard. Storage is good with large door pockets which are felt-lined so that items in them won't rattle. There is also a large cubby under the central armrest, while the two hideaway covers in the centre console conceal a pair of cupholders, two USB-C ports and a wireless charging pad. Boot space is also generous with a 532-litre capacity, increasing to 1,586 litres when the rear seats are folded.

Impressive Driving Range.

The entry-level Pro Plus (rear-wheel drive) uses a 77kWh (usable) battery pack, the same as what is available in the ID.4 and ID.5, but because of the sloped shape of the ID.7 it offers better efficiency, and has an range of up to 616km. There is an 86kWh (usable) battery pack as standard in the Pro S Plus (rear-wheel drive) and the GTX (all-wheel drive) models, with both models having a potential real-world range of 702km and 585km respectively. Rapid charging is possible at up to 170kW for the 77kWh Pro model. The 86kWh Pro S and GTX models up the charging speed to 200kW for even faster charging ability. VW claims a 10-80% refill in either version is possible in under 30 minutes. Anyone who has a 7.4kW wall-box charger at home should be able to refill a flat

battery (0-100%) in a little over 12 hours for the Pro version, and just under 14 hours for the Pro S and GTX variants.

Test Car Details.

My test car was an ID.7 Pro Plus finished in Glacier White paintwork. Standard equipment includes a 15-inch colour touchscreen, keyless entry and ignition, heated front seats and steering wheel, 19-inch alloy wheels, a head-up display, adaptive cruise control, automatic high-beam Matrix LED headlights with dynamic beam control, massaging front seats, three-zone climate control and an automated parking system, 'swerve support' automated braking and steering assistance, pedestrian and cyclist detection, blind-spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, semi-automated lane changing, lane-keeping steering, road-sign recognition, predictive speed limiter and a 360-degree surround-view camera system. Optional equipment fitted to my test car included a panoramic glass roof, 20-inch alloy wheels, and an interior 'style package plus pack', which includes ventilated front seats, heated rear seats, front and rear curtain airbags, a centre airbag and a Harmon Kardon sound system. Performance is sufficient, getting from 0-100km/h in just 6.5 seconds (6.6 seconds for the heavier Pro S version) with 545Nm of torque providing the car with instant acceleration from the get-go. The ID.7 is a refined and quiet car with a good driving position and an intuitively responsive accelerator pedal, while the steering is precise and well-weighted. There are no regenerative brake

paddles, but by twisting the drive selector into 'B' mode, the regenerative braking function is greatly enhanced. It is quite strong, but it doesn't go all the way down to a full stop (commonly known as one-pedal-drive). The suspension is soft and compliant, which allows it cope well with speed bumps, potholes and any uneven surfaces. With the appropriate suspension setting selected, the ID.7 remains remarkably composed, but it never loses its feeling of supreme agility. Impressively, tyre, road and wind noise remains minimal - even at motorway speeds, and this ensures that the occupants within the car experience a near-silent experience on every journey.

Verdict, Price & Warranty.

The ID.7 is highly commendable, zero-emission, family car, that is practical, remarkably quiet and comfortable too. It offers more space and more rolling refinement than many of its direct rivals, yet it dramatically undercuts similarly sized, but more premium competitors in terms of price. The car drives very nicely, and it performs with intuitive ease, while strong ergonomics and high levels of comfort make every journey pleasurable. The ID.7 has received a full five-star safety rating from Euro NCAP with impressive scores in the adult occupant protection category. Prices start at €56,490 for the ID.7 Pro Plus, with motor tax costing just €120 per annum. Like all VW's the ID.7 comes with a 3-year/100,000km warranty, with the battery warranty covering 8-years or 160,000km - whichever occurs first.

LUCAN RACING DRIVER QUALIFYING RESULTS FROM FORMULA WOMAN EVENT

Irish racing driver Hanna Celsie successfully made it through the Formula Woman's Nations Cup Qualifiers at Dubai Autodrome after three closely fought qualifying sessions on 12th

December. On a unique day for motorsport, spectators witnessed race action in the form of a time trial set-up at the Dubai Autodrome circuit for 40 of some of the best female racing drivers from

across the globe. Hanna produced an impressive overall performance throughout the adrenalin sapping day, to comfortably move on to the highly anticipated Formula Woman Global Nations Cup main finale, scheduled to take place in Dubai next May.

The qualifying event was made up of 38 selected drivers from almost 30 separate countries, which is a hugely impressive global cross section, that is down to the Formula Woman organisation and their extraordinary success of sourcing drivers who would most likely have never had the opportunity for competing at such a high level. Formula Woman Founder and CEO, Graeme Glew, reflected on the event, saying: "Congratulations to Hanna on getting through. She drove sensibly in all three qualifying sessions, and keeping a clear head helped her overall performance. With a bit more practice between now and May, she will undoubtedly be even quicker at the final next year.

"There was some very impressive driving on show throughout the day and

all the qualifiers will be delighted that they have made it through to the Formula Woman Nations Cup.

"There is so much talent within Formula Woman, and we are extremely proud to have hosted such a successful event, here in Dubai. However, nothing stands still and we have already switched our focus to the main event when we return in May next year. Dubai is an inspiring and exciting location for motorsport, and we are committed to continuing to grow the Formula Woman brand on a global level while using the impressive facilities available to us here."

Hanna was clearly thrilled with her result and excited about the future, especially the FW Nations Cup finale in May next year. She said, "I'm grateful to be given the opportunity to represent my country and to be able to show the next generation that it is possible to follow your dreams!

"I feel my hard work and the endless support I have received has helped me qualify as it has pushed me to do better each time. My plan

is to continue training and to push to improve my overall skills. "Formula Woman has offered me a community of like minded women with a passion for motorsport which is difficult to find. It has also offered me experiences and training that I never knew possible. My ultimate motorsport goal in the future is to keep driving,

keep inspiring and get as far as I can, whether that be in Ireland or internationally."

The Formula Woman Nations Cup will mark a truly special event in motorsport with its all-female grid and format. More details about the Dubai event and other Formula Woman information will be announced soon.



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O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech thee, from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in this necessity; there are none that can withstand thy power. Oh, show me in this that thou art my Mother! O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. D.D

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