

The Galway Solicitors Bar Association,
c/o John C. O'Donnell & Sons,
Mary Street,
Galway

Date: 6 November 2020

Your Ref:

Our Ref: MIS2020.BOC

Re: COPE Galway

Dear colleagues,

On Friday the 4 December, 2020 I will be leaving the comfort of my own home and sleeping out in Galway's bitterly cold winter weather with just a sleeping bag as part of COPE Galway's 2020 Business Sleep Out. The COPE Galway Business Sleep Out is an annual event to raise awareness for the issue of homelessness and raise funds to support COPE Galway's Homeless Services.

The effects of COVID-19 have been unexpected and far-reaching and everyone has undoubtedly had a very different experience over the course of the last 9 months or so. For those that rely on the support provided by COPE Galway, COVID-19 has been devastating and it has caused significant levels uncertainty and distress to people living without a home. Self-isolating when you experience symptoms of COVID-19 is a difficult task for anybody to manage and this is particularly so when you have no home to go to.

In 2019, COPE Galway worked with 1,189 adults and 433 children affected by homelessness. This work helped find and retain long-term housing and reduce the level of homelessness within our community. COVID-19 has exacerbated problems associated with homelessness and COPE Galway has reconfigured its homeless services to respond to this crisis by creating extra emergency capacity. Many support services have moved online because of

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COVID-19 and COPE Galway is finding new ways of working with the homeless to try and ensure that they may continue to have access to the supports they need.

I was invited to participate in the 2020 Business Sleep Out to support COPE Galway and was happy to accept this invitation. COPE Galway has suggested that I aim to raise the sum of €3,000.00 to help fight homelessness in Galway and while this in itself would provide some much needed assistance for what is a worthy charity I would very much like to surpass this if at all possible.

If you are in a position to make a donation to support COPE Galway this can be done in one of 2 ways:-

1. you can use the following link and follow the necessary steps <https://copegalway.enthuse.com/pf/brendan-oconnor> , or
2. you can send a cheque/postal order payable to 'COPE Galway' to me at the address recited above.

Every little helps and I will be very grateful for each and every contribution.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this email and you can find out more about the work that COPE Galway does at www.copegalway.ie.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Brendan O'Connor

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