

Strictly Private & Confidential Addressee only

Ms. Nessa Childers MEP

By Email only

info@nessachilders.ie

nessa.childers@europarl.europa.eu

8 September 2014 **Your Ref:**

Our Ref: PFC/KC/41020.3
MHC-10168912-1

Matter: Our client: Mr Phil Hogan

Dear Madam,

We act for Mr. Hogan.

We note from a report in the Irish Times dated 3 September 2014 that you have apparently circulated correspondence to European Parliamentary members which allegedly includes allegations made against our client as follows:

1. That our client was involved in a dispute over accommodation for a Traveller family in Kilkenny and that his appointment would be “a step backwards for equality”;
2. That our client requested Kilkenny County Council prevent a traveller family being provided with social housing; and
3. That our client’s actions are “incompatible with the proper discharge of the duties incumbent upon a European commissioner.”

It is further note that similar disparaging and defamatory remarks were made by you against our client on Newstalk on Jonathan Healy’s lunchtime show on Wednesday 3 September 2014.

As confirmed by the government press office and as has been reported in numerous media outlets, our client has strenuously denied the allegations made and those allegations are currently the subject of two sets of High Court proceedings.

Your dissemination of incorrect information has served to recirculate and re-publicise the previous defamatory allegations and we would strongly advise that you desist from any further republication pending resolution of the issue by the Irish courts. Your actions have merely served to broadcast defamatory information to a broader platform, which significantly increases the damage already suffered by our client.

Clearly all such republication is potentially defamatory and our client reserves all rights he has in that regard.

Finally, please provide us with a copy of the letter referenced above and confirm that any other copies and/or prior drafts and/or actual documentations showing research carried out prior to circulating the letters and before making any associated comments on any media format will be retained.

Yours faithfully,

Mason Hayes & Curran.
MASON HAYES & CURRAN