

We need to ascertain if the Gresham Hotel is in breach of Equality Legislation

Cllr Alison Gilliland, Labour Party

Thursday 11th January 2018

A motion calling for DCC to seek legal advice, including from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, to ascertain if the Gresham Hotel is in breach of Equality legislation was passed at the Council's Housing meeting this evening.

The motion tabled by Cllr Alison Gilliland also condemned the actions of the Gresham in ceasing to provide accommodation for homeless families.

'The owners of the Gresham Hotel took a deliberate decision to cease providing rooms to homeless families and it's imperative to ascertain whether or not this is in breach of the Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015. This legislation established 'housing assistance' as a discriminatory ground with regard to the provision of accommodation and related services and amenities.'

'Dublin City Council pays the market rate for these hotel rooms and as far as I know no other guests were asked to leave. This would suggest discrimination to me.'

'While I understand that DCC needs to work closely with hotels to provide emergency accommodation we have a responsibility to call out malpractice. The rights of our most vulnerable and their non-discrimination must be protected particularly when it comes to putting a roof over their heads'.

ENDS

Cllr Alison Gilliland

086/6015154

Motion text

Emergency Motion in name of Cllr Alison Gilliland

Dublin City Council Housing Strategic Policy Committee condemns the decision of the owners of the Gresham Hotel to refuse homeless families accommodation under Dublin City Council/Dublin Regional Homeless Services self-accommodation practices and supports DRHS in making alternative arrangements for all families as soon as possible. To fully account for this issues this Strategic Policy Committee:

- seeks that a full report on the matter be presented to the full Dublin City Council.
- seeks that legal advice, including from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, be sought to ascertain whether the hotel owners are in breach of the Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 in the provision of accommodation under the 'housing assistance' ground and should this be the case that DCC would partner with the families being removed from the Gresham Hotel to take a case under this legislation