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## Lisacul accident

A road traffic accident occurred at Lisacul at 6.45 pm on Sunday last when a car hit a cow on the road. No injuries were reported.

# Leyden withdraws statement in relation to Fintan O'Toole

Senator Terry Leyden this week withdrew a statement made in the Seanad, which stated that Irish Times journalist had incited people to riot outside Dáil Éireann last week.

Last week Senator Terry Leyden stated in the Seanad that the Irish Times journalist was involved in inciting people to riot. This week in the Seanad he withdrew that statement and accepted that Fintan O'Toole is



Senator Terry Leyden and Fintan O'Toole.

a democrat and did not seek to incite a riot.

Speaking in the Seanad this week during a debate on the protest that occurred outside



Dáil Éireann on Tuesday evening, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Senator Leyden said, "I welcome the comments that have been made in respect of the fracas – or

riot – that took place last week. Criminal charges are being prepared in respect of what happened last week. I accept that Fintan O'Toole is a democrat and did not intentionally seek to incite a riot. However, no two people see the world in the same way.

"Everyone has his or her own particular take on life and I firmly believe that all of us who seek to maintain our democratic freedoms

have a responsibility to exercise caution in our utterances. Following Fintan O'Toole's communications with me by email and on radio in recent days, I accept that Fintan O'Toole is indeed a democrat. That was my personal statement. I have made my statement in the best interests. If the Cathaoirleach accepts that as my withdrawal of the statement, I will confirm that now."

## Feighan rejects By-pass plan

The plan to have a 14 km stretch of single carriageway on the Ballaghaderreen Bypass was rejected this week by Deputy Frank Feighan, who said that it is "simply not good enough".

"This bypass has been delayed on numerous occasions and I do welcome the Minister's intention to make money available for the Bypass. However, the 14 km stretch is still planned for a single carriage road and I believe that this is an insult to the people of the West of Ireland, a single carriage road is not the desired carriageway.

"All over Ireland, and I have raised this with the Transport Committee and in the Dáil, we have dual carriageways. There are dual carriageways between Dublin and Cork, Dublin and Galway, Dublin and Limerick, Dublin and Waterford and Dublin and Belfast and effectively a single carriageway

is simply not good enough. I have sought a compromise that the existing road could be a two plus two. Although not a dual carriageway, it is an acceptable alternative. This two-plus-two has been constructed between Droimod and Rooskey in County Leitrim and has been a reasonable success and has been much more successful than a single carriage.

"As of Tuesday the National Roads Authority is still pursuing a single carriageway which I believe is not addressing the infrastructure needs of Ballaghaderreen and the West of Ireland and I am appealing to the minister to re-examine the possibility of upgrading from a single carriageway in the interests of safety and access and fairness. I will continue to raise this matter, but unfortunately it needs to be changed at Government level."



Deirdre Lawler, Kiltoom, was a winner in the Roscommon/Athlone School Essay competition. She's pictured with, from left: Anne Henehan, Fiona Lawler, Canon Liam Devine and Maureen Kenny, Kiltoom PTAA.

## Dialysis decision is 'short-sighted' – Naughten

Disappointment has been expressed by Denis Naughten TD at the HSE's "refusal" to consider providing dialysis at Roscommon County Hospital.

In a response to a query from Denis Naughten, the HSE has confirmed that it has no plans to establish a dialysis unit at Roscommon Hospital and that patients from Roscommon will continue to have to travel to Galway for

treatment. "This is a very disappointing and short-sighted decision by the HSE," stated Denis Naughten.

"The reality is that the opening of a dialysis unit in Roscommon could be a cost-neutral initiative by the HSE as it would reduce transport costs for patients forced to travel to Galway for treatment several times a week."

## Laptops stolen

At least three people were involved in a theft from Computers 4U in Ballaghaderreen in the early hours of Sunday morning last.

The incident occurred at 3.50 am. Culprits entered the premises by breaking the front window. Four laptops and two printers were stolen. €400 worth of damage was caused and €2,200 worth of property was stolen. In a follow-up search Gardaí recovered a printer valued at €100.

## Forged notes found

Forged €50 notes were discovered this week in Castlereagh Prison. As prison authorities checked the possessions of a prisoner lodged in Castlereagh Prison earlier this week, they discovered seven forged €50 notes. The matter is now under investigation. The man involved is believed to be from the Athlone area.