DRAFT LETTER 2 – TO LOCAL TDS and Minister for Education

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

Name and Address / Email to whom you are sending this letter

DATE

RE: Clonkeen College playing pitches

Dear NAME

I wish to protest and object in the strongest manner, the sale of the Clonkeen College sports fields to a developer.

The decision by the Christian Brothers to attempt to pay retribution to the Redress Board for the abuse visited on previous generations of boys, by selling the outside space and playing/sports pitches (one of the most vital assets of any school), is not only ironic; it is cynical and in the context of the orders code of ethics, immoral.

To seek to atone for their past crimes against children, by hugely disadvantaging the current generation and future generations of boys is outrageous. This ‘land deal’ is obscene and cannot be allowed to go ahead.

The school community, along with the wider community who benefit from the use of this land through sports clubs are appalled by the underhand and secret way this project has been advanced so far.

As a public representative in the Dun Laoghaire constituency, I am calling on you to do all within your power to have this contemptuous deal halted now.

Clonkeen College is a non-fee paying school which draws its pupils from all over the Dun Laoghaire area. We are urging you, in the strongest possible manner, to use all methods at your disposal, to ensure that Christian Brothers sign over the pitches to the school so they can be retained for the benefit of our children and grandchildren. This would be a fitting tribute to the boys who suffered at the hands of this congregation.

It is immoral that the very religious organisation responsible for the abuse of children should profit (and they would, handsomely) from this land sale which they have dressed up as atonement.

The local community will tolerate nothing less than full retention, in perpetuity, of this important part of the school infrastructure. Outdoor space and playing/sports pitches are vital not only to the boys physical health in this age of galloping obesity but also to their mental health. I urge you not to be complicit in this appalling action and to make all possible efforts to put a stop to it immediately.

I look forward to your soonest reply

Yours sincerely

YOUR NAME