

**Dr. James McDaid T.D.**  
Constituency Office, Pearse Rd  
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal  
27th October 2010

Taoiseach Brian Cowen  
Government Buildings  
Dublin 2

Dear Taoiseach,

For quite some time now, I have been advocating need for a General Election prior to the current Dáil running its full term. Indeed, it is my view that the current Dáil should have been dissolved in October 2010 and certainly prior to Budget 2011.

I believe this is in the best interests of the country, and in the best interests of Fianna Fáil.

Since making that call over a year ago, nothing has happened to change my mind. It is true that some courageous and difficult decisions have been made, and that the Government has identified clear targets that need to be achieved.

But after two years, we have failed to make any significant progress in relation to reducing our structural budget deficit, which remains as our most pressing and potentially damaging economic challenge. Month after month we are informed of further challenging figures from the Department of Finance.

This will continue for as long as the current Dáil arithmetic prevents decisive action being undertaken by a sitting Government. The continuing, and deepening, absence of certainty in relation to Government support in the Dáil has resulted in necessary decisions being postponed in the hope that future events will make those decisions unnecessary. In such circumstances the political decision making ability atrophies and spin becomes the significant tool.

Where decisions have been made, they have invariably pursued the path of least resistance, focusing on what is politically possible rather than what is economically necessary.

Why should we have to abandon major infrastructure projects and cut frontline services in our hospitals just to keep public sector pay numbers at grossly inflated levels. Why? Because it is the option that is least likely to de-stabilise the Government.

Why have we the second highest minimum wage in Europe, and 14% unemployment? Why is our debt to GDP ratio 14.4%? Why, after two years, haven't we implemented to any significant degree the recommendations of the much vaunted An Bord Snip Nua

report? Why? Because our primary focus is the survival of the Government instead of the health of the economy.

I do not believe we have the confidence of the E.C.B., European Commission, I.M.F., or the International Bond markets as is borne out by our massive interest rate repayment. That's because they see this government as a temporary little arrangement, that another is waiting in the wings and they await to see the colour of their eyes.

I am a citizen first and a member of Fianna Fail second.

At this point, I believe that it is in the best interests of the people of Ireland that the Government of Ireland has a working majority in the Dáil of at least 20 seats, even if that Government is compromised of parties who have traditionally stood in opposition to Fianna Fail. And I hope that government will have the strength to take on their obvious responsibilities, free from the shackles of social partnership and political Dutch auctions.

A majority of this magnitude, supported by a popular mandate, will provide for the type of decision making that is desperately needed at this time, and which will never be available to the current Government.

Unless we act now, we will be paralysed by the political uncertainty/instability that awaits us in the spring of 2011.

Yours sincerely,

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Dr James McDaid T.D.