

## Text Alert Rebate - Muintir Na Tíre

On the last day of the Ploughing Championships 2016, the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, has announced a major new incentive for Text Alert Groups. The new Text Alert Rebate Scheme, which will be administered by Muintir na Tíre, will provide increased funding for all eligible Text Alert Groups.

Speaking as she visited the National Ploughing Championships today, Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald announced that the funding for the Community Alert programme now incorporates a new €100,000 rebate scheme for local groups registered under the Garda Text Alert Scheme.

Muintir na Tíre CEO, Niall Garvey, welcomed the announcement saying it was the culmination of intensive lobbying by Muintir na Tíre. He said “Text Alert has been a phenomenal success in preventing crime. Muintir na Tíre, in partnership with An Garda Síochána, has rolled this programme out to almost 1,000 local community groups, mainly Community Alert groups.”

He added “Until now, the groups have been responsible for their own costs and have accepted this as a means to reduce crime in their areas. However, this new scheme recognises those efforts and costs, and will go some way towards reducing the burden on local residents.”

Under the scheme, eligible groups will receive a rebate of at least €100 towards their operating costs. Groups can apply by completing a simple application form available at [www.muintir.ie/Text-Alert-Rebates](http://www.muintir.ie/Text-Alert-Rebates) or by contacting Muintir na Tíre before 31 October next. This scheme will be fast-tracked with payments made before the end of the year. It will then be reviewed in early 2017.

In conclusion Muintir na Tíre President, Paddy Byrne, said “Community Alert, and Text Alert, represent the most positive way communities can prevent crime and increase safety in their areas. Since it was launched at the Ploughing Championships three years ago, Text Alert has developed incredibly to involve over 164,000 subscribers with an estimated 3 million text messages sent in the last year.” He said “we look forward to continuing this positive partnership with An Garda Síochána and the Department of Justice and Equality.”

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