

six month period. There is very real concern amongst the business community in Waterford that a similar timeline will not be met in the case of the TUSE application. The current impasse cannot be allowed to drag on indefinitely.

It is important that the Government, through the Department of Education and the Higher Education Authority, takes effective action to ensure that timelines and targets are met so that the City and the South East gets the university it needs in order to sustain the economic success already achieved and build our economy for the future.

While we warmly welcome the Governments allocation of €2m funding to the TUSE, it is important that assurances are given by the parties to ensure that a quality application is submitted in a timely manner.

The Government needs to remain true to its own plan which clearly defines the role of the cities for balanced economic growth into the future. It is a fitting recognition of the dedication and commitment of Waterford Institute of Technology which has been at the centre of the economic transformation of Waterford and the region.

In conclusion Minister, we are respectfully requesting that you intervene now as a matter of urgency and we offer every assistance in this regard. Waterford Chamber is confident in Waterford's future and will continue to work in earnest with stakeholders to ensure the delivery of Project Ireland 2040 including the delivery of a university for the city and the region driven from the regional city of the South East and your assistance at this time is most welcome and needed.

Yours sincerely,

Gerald Hurley
CEO Waterford Chamber