

Ronan's legacy should lead to a regulatory framework for the Aquatic Leisure Industry

Following the inquest in to the tragic drowning of Ronan Kennedy at the Red Barn Quality Hotel in Youghal two years ago the Dublin Coroner made two crucial recommendations to Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, Simon Coveney, T.D.,

That there should be a dedicated lifeguard on duty at all times at swimming pools and the lifeguard should not be a person engaged in other supervisory duties.

To recommend to the relevant Minister that a dedicated water safety inspectorate is required to formulate regulations and ensure their implementation.

Today Minister Coveney has issued a statement as follows:

“First and foremost, the Minister would like to extend his deepest sympathies to the parents and family of three year old Ronan Kennedy who died in such tragic circumstances.

The Department understands that the Coroner is to contact the relevant Minister to recommend that a dedicated water safety inspectorate is required to formulate regulations and ensure their implementation. On receipt of the correspondence, the Department, together with other stakeholders, will consider how best to progress this matter.

In the meantime, Minister Coveney has indicated that he will provide funding support for Irish Water Safety to assist it in reviewing best practice in other European countries with a view to informing the development of an appropriate regulatory framework for Ireland”

Irish Water Safety welcomes this decision and will commence its research in to this matter. We have many helpful and useful contacts throughout Europe that can assist us develop a viable regulatory framework that will operate efficiently in Ireland within the Aquatic Leisure Industry.

This is a legacy that will turn this tragic drowning in to a positive regulatory framework that will help prevent similar tragedies in the future.

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