

Vótáil

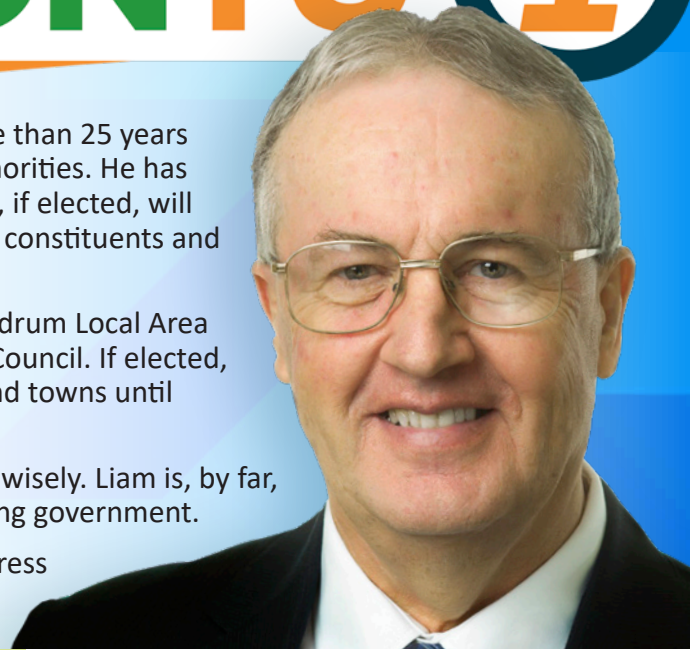
AONTÚ 1

Liam Coughlan, a civil engineer by profession, spent more than 25 years working in a senior capacity for the four Dublin local authorities. He has considerable knowledge of how public service works and, if elected, will be able to use his experience to ensure that the needs of constituents and communities are met in a timely manner.

An avid campaigner, most recently on the disastrous Dundrum Local Area Plan, he narrowly missed out on election to DLR County Council. If elected, he will vigorously pursue full vehicle access to all cities and towns until proper alternative modes of transport are put in place.

The upcoming election is really important. Use your vote wisely. Liam is, by far, the best placed candidate to win a seat from this damaging government.

Liam believes in accountability and can be trusted to address any public policy issues of concern to those he serves.



Liam COUGHLAN

Dublin Rathdown

Housing for all

Ireland's housing crisis is worsening, rooted in years of government failure and mismanagement. Over 14,500 people are now homeless, including 4,500 children.

Young families are being priced out of the market, and rents are at record highs. Our young people are trapped in "generation rent." 68% of Irish adults between 25 and 29 still live at home, compared to the EU average of 42%. This government has failed them by allowing Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to bulk buy homes for rent, driving prices up and pushing homeownership out of reach.

Aontú will :

- Reform and speed up the planning permission process.
- Resource Local Authorities to procure lands and design and build thousands of more social and affordable homes.
- Properly fund the return of vacant houses back to use.
- End land bank speculation.
- Incentivise the return of Irish construction workers from abroad.
- Increase the number of construction apprenticeships.
- End tax advantages for predatory Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

A health system fit for purpose

Our health service is over-managed, under-resourced and crippled with Government red tape and regulation. Only

recently did a HSE recruitment freeze end, when we know from hospital campaigns run by Aontú that nurses and doctors have been crying out for help whilst Accident and Emergency Departments are on their knees. In a modern European country, the sight of ambulances waiting to unload sick patients into hospitals is a disgrace.

Primary care services are on the brink of collapse, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to get an appointment with your GP. Mental health services, when they are available, are an Eircode lottery, especially Child and Adolescent Mental Health services.

Aontú will protect essential services and invest in the long-term viability of our health service.

Aontú will:

- Increase the amount of frontline health workers.
- Provide decent pay and conditions to keep Irish doctors and nurses at home.
- Decrease bureaucracy.
- Protect regional GP services from closure.
- Create a parallel mental health service for all ages with a dedicated multi-year budget.



**Aontú Leader
Peadar Tóibín TD**

Common sense on immigration

This government has created chaos with its immigration policy. It is allowing the asylum system to be abused by people who are not fleeing war, persecution or natural disaster and who simply want to come to Ireland. By its refusal to engage with communities, the government has sown anger, confusion, and suspicion about the status of those entering the country.

Aontú has been at the fore in holding this government to account. Most of the information in the public domain about immigration came from Aontú. Aontú uncovered that 85% of deportation orders were not enforced. We found out that 5,000 people came through Dublin Airport without a passport. Both are damning indictments of this Government's record.

Aontú will:

- Prioritise the creation of a new Irish Border Agency that will actually enforce the law.
- Ensure that communities have a say in how their areas develop by reintroducing the planning permission system for asylum accommodation.
- Ensure communities who agree to host migrants see a community dividend.
- Ensure asylum applications are completed within 4 months - and if refused - the applicant is sent home within 6 months.
- Ensure those who purposefully destroy their travel documents are immediately sent home.
- Ensure housing and other amenities made available to migrants are also available to Irish people in need.
- Ensure that anyone coming here with a criminal record is denied asylum.
- Ensure that deportation orders are enforced by the Gardaí.

There are many good people living in Ireland who have come from other countries. Many do important and valuable work. Aontú believes in equality and respect for all those who legally contribute to Irish society.

The government is increasing the cost of living

Irish families are still feeling the effects of the cost of living crisis. One-in-five

Irish people are struggling financially and two thirds are in the same financial position as they were at the height of the crisis early in 2023.

Aontú research shows that last year, this Government collected more tax on fuel than ever before. The recent give-away budget gives tea and sympathy on the cost of living, while increasing taxes on fuel.

Aontú will:

- Cut fuel tax on petrol and diesel.
- Reduce VAT for the hospitality sector.
- Intervene to assist renters and greatly increase the delivery of social housing.
- Direct the ESB to take a smaller profit and reduce the price of electricity.
- Reduce the cost of public transport.
- Fund child care to ensure its viability and to decrease costs.
- Increase competition in the super market sector.

Crime

Crime is spiraling out of control across Ireland, especially in Dublin city. The number of Gardaí is falling, violent assaults, thefts, and drug-related crimes are rising. Aontú's research shows that Garda recruitment is not keeping pace with retirements, leaving frontline officers overstretched and demoralised.

This government's neglect of law enforcement is putting communities at risk. Aontú will invest in Garda recruitment and resources, ensuring that every citizen feels safe and that our justice system functions effectively. We need a government that prioritises public safety, not one that leaves citizens vulnerable to crime.



Aontú supports the unity of the Irish people, the human right to life of everyone, born and unborn, and economic justice so that all families can confidently raise their children to their full potential.

For assistance on local issues, contact Liam: **Tel** 086 606 3232 **Email** liam@liamcoughlan.ie

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