

June 15<sup>th</sup> 2015

3 pages 'cc' interested parties

Dear Fellow Candidates,

As a courtesy, I feel obliged to inform you that as a direct result of the defamatory aspects of the illicit 'exclusion statement' placed on the *1<sup>st</sup> Independent Mayo* facebook page last Wednesday, that I have now become the target of some atrocious abuse online. Likewise, a slew of fake 'Integrity Ireland' webpages authored by certain 'unknown entities' are doing their best to discredit the *Integrity Ireland Community* and slander and abuse me personally – making repeated reference to that disingenuous statement.

This is causing great distress to my wife and children, and has (again) traumatised my elderly mother who is aghast at the levels of malice and venom being directed at me without due cause.

I have repeatedly asked the *named* organisers of *1<sup>st</sup> Independent Mayo* (Eddie Farrell and Martin Daly) to take down those offending materials from the *1<sup>st</sup> Ind* facebook page, and I have left messages on Mr Daly's phone pleading with him to contact me so that we can find a solution to this debacle. I have also advised the *1<sup>st</sup> Ind* facebook administrator of the same by email, but again, there has been no response or acknowledgement from any *1<sup>st</sup> Ind* official source, other than to hastily delete a raft of supportive fb posts which objectively question what's going on. There have however been a couple of 'unofficial' responses from anonymous entities who indicate that they are 'on the inside' of this argument – making reference to information which could only be coming from persons directly involved in the *1<sup>st</sup> Ind Mayo* setup.

Here is just a brief sample of the type of abuse being posted online by the same source:

*"What a horrible creature you are Manning. Of course you still haven't answered any of the other questions regarding your child's allegation, the HSE investigation referred to or the supervision order that's in effect, come on, let's hear the lies about how you won that case and sorted out all the corrupt HSE employees, lies. You are a coward who is so afraid of the truth coming out that he directs people who want to know it to your own cesspit website checkpoint.ie.."* etc etc

Needless to say, this unsavoury rant and many others like it have been authored by persons who lack the courage to identify themselves – probably for fear that I would sue them for damages – which I certainly intend to do as soon as we identify the source. I won't bother addressing these allegations here because I have already offered to explain to any of you who wants to contact me personally – and secondly, because this disgraceful nonsense is clearly driven by malice and spite.

As I said in my previous advisory to you all (and thanks to those of you who did respond) I have now been placed in a position where I have no alternative but to defend my good name. Accordingly, civil proceedings are currently being drafted naming Eddie Farrell and Martin Daly as the *named* organisers of *1<sup>st</sup> Ind Mayo* as the lead Defendants, because they are the only persons I can officially name (at present) as being responsible for the posting of those defamatory materials online. I am also suing for breach of contract and other torts, including deception causing financial loss etc etc. It is also my intention to alert the media as to these developments so that the public is not further deceived or misled as to the facts, and in order to protect and defend my good name and that of the *Integrity Ireland* project and community – and maybe even, to still salvage some credibility for this once-promising 'open and transparent political initiative'.

I advise each of you of these developments as a courtesy because of your own public involvement with the project; because there needs to be clarity on why I am taking these actions; and because, as the evidence unfolds as to the *real* agenda behind the 1<sup>st</sup> *Independent Mayo* project, you will come to realise that most of us have in fact been deliberately misled as to the true motives and objectives of the organisers – and of those who are in effect backing and financing them. It is not so much that the *real* political objectives are not worthy in-and-of themselves – because they most probably are. It is the fact that this whole 1<sup>st</sup> *Independent Mayo* campaign is based on a series of contrivances and pre-planned deceptions of the public and the media, and of most of the would-be candidates.

As to the equally- contrived ‘exclusion notice’; I note with some irony and dismay that in addition to the lies about an ‘ongoing HSE investigation’; that of the other three purported ‘reasons’ given for excluding me from the project, namely; that I am (abridged), ‘*an activist with unresolved issues in the Courts who knows certain people who are the subject of Garda enquiries*’ etc., that the organisers of this project, in their respective roles as Chairperson and PRO of the *Moy Valley Protection Group* both Eddie Farrell and Martin Daly have engaged in various public activities, protests and demonstrations – as well as civil actions in the Courts as lay litigants, that would fall exactly into the same category as my work with *Integrity Ireland* and which *exactly* match the contrived reasons given for excluding me. I am not criticising Eddie or Martin or the MVPG for these activities of course – in fact I would be very supportive of this type of ‘direct action’ in the face of oppressive or negligent decisions by government and big business – but the incongruity and untenability of the arguments put forth in that contrived ‘exclusion notice’ needs to be understood in context of the organisers’ own activities and positions in regards to the MVPG which as we all now know is, in effect, the founding and backing organisation for this supposedly ‘independent political process’.

In short, that this attempt to exclude me from this process has now been exposed as utterly fraudulent and unfair on all fronts, and as such, I would hope that each of you examines your own consciences as to what your position should be. I don’t know of course what ‘stories’ or gossip you may have been sold that might restrain you from coming out in public to denounce this prejudicial action against another fellow candidate, but I can only repeat my invitation to any of you who has any questions whatsoever about my background, my motives or my work with *Integrity Ireland*, to raise those questions with me before the upcoming meeting in Belmullet so as to avoid the unseemly spectacle of complete public embarrassment for anyone involved with this project who has not yet had the wherewithal to make their position clearly known.

My previous suggestion that we all come together as *genuine* independents and pool our resources to move this campaign forwards *without* the stain of this shameful farce overshadowing us, remains open, because at this point, I simply cannot envisage any scenario whereby this process can continue as-is under the same leadership without drawing unmitigated scorn and derision upon all concerned.

I close this message by re-posting the email sent to Mr Farrell by an unconnected source last Friday – copied to me – which I believe says it all neatly and succinctly.

Yours, Stephen Manning Tel: 086 218 9229

1st Independent Mayo prospective candidate  
and a Member of Integrity Ireland

<https://www.facebook.com/IntegrityIRL> <http://www.checkpoint.ie/page8.html>

Email to 1<sup>st</sup> Independent Mayo - Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

FAO Eddie Farrell.

Eddie,

*I have been following the Mayo 1st initiative with interest. I thought that I'd finally have some purpose in voting in the next election. Although I don't know Stephen or anyone in Integrity Ireland, I've been following the progress he and the organisation he's driving - has been making in terms tackling the corrupt practices that are ongoing in our judiciary, our courts service, the legal profession and state institutions generally.*

*With that, I was disgusted to read this => <http://www.checkpoint.ie/To%20candidates%20-%20June%209th%202015.pdf> this morning.*

*In the interests of transparency, can you confirm what chain of events led to your actions in this regard? Were you approached by someone? Were you approached by anyone from A.G.S.?*

*No matter what the outcome, you have now sullied the initiative you have started. Political opponents will take great relish in capitalising on that. Given that they are the incumbents, the task of unseating one of them in what is generally a conservative rural constituency was going to be an uphill task. With your actions, you have made that task that much more difficult.*

*What Stephen and his family have been through is truly appalling. On the back of that, that you would pull this type of stroke is surreal. There is no defence to it.*

*There are only two options;*

*1. Apologise and rollback - and mark this down as an error of judgement on your part.*

*OR*

*2. Step aside.*

*There is no further option that will result in this initiative maintaining even a shred of credibility.*

*Regards,*

*(Name withheld on request – there was no response from Mr Farrell)*

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I hope to see you all in Belmullet on Thursday, at the Broadhaven Bay Hotel, at 8pm, where I still harbour a hope that the organisers will have the courage and integrity to adhere to the declared 'sole objective' of the 1st Independent Mayo campaign; *"..to provide a forum for aspiring Independent Candidates to interact and speak with the Mayo electorate and also to give the Mayo electorate a voice in deciding what candidates they prefer to see contesting the next election."* Stephen.

