

DENIS O'BRIEN

By Courier

Catherine Murphy TD  
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Catherine Murphy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
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Recent statements in Dáil Éireann

Dear Ms Murphy

I am writing to express my dissatisfaction in the way that you have handled issues that have come to your attention concerning my personal banking relations with IBRC.

While I respect your entitlement to freedom of expression, I am very disappointed that, based on information which you know to have been stolen you made seriously accusatory statements in the Dáil which are materially inaccurate and in spite of acknowledging the terms of an injunction granted by the courts of the State you knowingly breached that injunction on the grounds that your interpretation of the public interest is to be favoured over the determination of where the balance of the public interest lay by the High Court.

Even RTE acknowledged the right to confidentiality of my personal banking relations and claimed an entitlement to disclose certain details of those relations with IBRC "in the public interest". That claim was tested by the court at injunction stage but rejected. All of this was known to you when you stood up in the Dáil yesterday and abused the privilege afforded to you by virtue of your being an elected representative. Such abuse in the circumstances of there being in place not just court proceedings but a High Court Order directly affecting the subject matter of your address, is contrary to the determination of the courts of the State and an abuse of Dáil privilege as well as being a breach of Dáil Standing Orders, specifically Standing Order 57(3) which states that "*a matter shall not be raised in such an overt manner so that it appears to be an attempt by the Dáil to encroach on the functions of the Courts or a Judicial Tribunal.*"

I will be writing separately to the Ceann Comhairle but it is a worrying day for the democratic institutions of this State when a member of the Dáil deliberately undermines an Order of the judiciary of the State.

I reserve my right to take such steps to vindicate my rights against you as I may be advised.

Yours sincerely



DENIS O'BRIEN