

24th July 2026

John Cummins,
Minister of State,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Custom House,
Dublin 1, D01 W6X0.

**Re: Notice Pursuant to section 63(11) of the Planning and Development Act
2024 – Variation No. 1 to the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027.**

A chara,

1. I am writing to you in relation to the recent adoption of Variation No. 1 (Variation) to the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 (Development Plan) by the elected members of Laois County Council (Planning Authority) on 25th May 2026.
2. Having completed its assessment, I am writing to you in the context of the statutory duty of the Office of the Planning Regulator (Office) pursuant to section 63(11) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Act) to issue a Notice to you on the basis that, having considered the Variation, the Office is of the opinion that none of the criteria in section 63(10) have been met and, accordingly, the Office is recommending that a draft direction under section 64 should not be issued.
3. No recommendations in respect of the Variation were made by the Minister or the Office during the making of the Variation.
4. The Office has undertaken an assessment of the adopted Variation in line with the requirements of section 63, giving particular consideration to:
 - the National Planning Framework First Revision (2025);
 - the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly;
 - National Planning Policies and Measures;
 - National Planning Policy Guidance;

- any relevant transport strategy published by the National Transport Authority,
- the submission made by the Office at draft stage;
- recommendations and submissions made by the National Transport Authority and other prescribed bodies;
- the requirements of Chapter 5 of the Act; and
- those matters in section 547(3) not referred to above

5. Please find enclosed the Office's statement of reasons for this recommendation.

6. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office should you have any queries in relation to the above. Contact can be initiated through the undersigned or at plans@opr.ie.

Is mise le meas,



Anne Marie O'Connor

Deputy Regulator and Director of Planning Policy Implementation

Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015
