



For the Attention of: Mr. Martin Lydon, Chief Executive

Sligo County Council
County Hall
Riverside
Sligo
F91 Y763

1st May 2026

**Section 31AN(4A)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 –
Decision Not to Agree with a recommendation of the Office of the Planning Regulator to Issue
a Direction to Sligo County Council in relation to six identified parts of the Office of the
Planning Regulator’s recommended Proposed Final Direction regarding the
Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030**

Dear Martin,

Consequent to the recommendation made to the Minister, by the Office of the Planning Regulator (‘the Office’) on 31st January 2025 under section 31AN(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (‘the Act’) in connection with the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030, and further to section 31AN(4A)(b) of the Act, I write to give notice that:

- (1) I have decided not to agree to issue a direction to Sligo County Council in relation to six identified parts of the Office’s recommended proposed final direction regarding the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030, for the reasons set out in the enclosed *Statement of Reasons*, and;
- (2) the remaining 16 parts of the recommended proposed final direction remain subject to the ongoing statutory process and a Ministerial decision will issue in respect of those parts at a later date subject to the completion of any necessary steps that may be determined to be applicable under section 31AN(16)(b) of the Act.

Process to Date

A detailed outline of the process to leading up to the issuing of a draft Direction and the issues arising was set out in the letter issued to you by Minister Alan Dillon, in his capacity as Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, on 8th November 2024. This document is accessible online at the following link:



<https://www.opr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2-Ministers-draft-Direction-Sligo-CDP-2024-2030-1.pdf>

The draft Direction was made available for public inspection by Sligo County Council and submissions were invited during the period from 25th November 2024 to 9th December 2024. Subsequently, you prepared a Chief Executive's Report dated 14th January 2025 on submissions received during the consultation period and made recommendations on how to give effect to the draft Direction. The Office considered this report and on 31st January 2025, issued a recommendation under section 31AN(4) of the Act recommending that the Minister issue the Direction with minor amendments.

On 20th February 2025 the Minister published a notice in *The Irish Times* pursuant to section 31AN(16)(a) of the Act giving notice that:

- having regard to the nature and number of amendments recommended to be directed, the giving of the Direction to the planning authority would require the making of a material alteration to the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030;
- the Minister's decision under section 31AN(4A) of the Act shall be subject to section 31AN(16).

Section 31AN(16)(b) of the Act requires that the Minister shall, before giving a direction, determine—

- i. whether or not a strategic environmental assessment or an appropriate assessment is required to be carried out as respects a material alteration to a development plan that would be required in order to comply with the direction, and
- ii. where he or she determines that a strategic environmental assessment or an appropriate assessment is so required, the period that it would take to carry out such strategic environmental assessment or appropriate assessment.

Detailed work in respect of these requirements is nearing conclusion within my Department and further details will be communicated in due course, in line with statutory requirements.

Decision

On review of the recommendation issued by the Office, corresponding documents and analysis, I have decided not to issue a Direction to Sligo County Council in relation to the following **six identified parts** of the Office's recommended proposed final direction, for the reasons set out in the enclosed Statement of Reasons, prepared under section 31AN(4A)(b) of the Act:

- Recommendation (2)b.(i) – i.e. land identified as PAZ 9
- Recommendation (2)b.(iv) – i.e. land identified as PAZ 13
- Recommendation (2)b.(x) – i.e. land identified as PAZ 42



- Recommendation (2)b.(xii) – i.e. land identified as PAZ 57
- Recommendation (2)b.(xvii) – i.e. land identified as PAZ 80
- Recommendation (2)b.(xx) – i.e. land identified as PAZ 44

This letter and the enclosed statement of reasons marks the conclusion of the section 31 direction process in relation to those six identified parts.

Next Steps

Further correspondence will issue in due course in relation to those parts of the recommended direction that remain subject to the ongoing statutory process.

Yours sincerely,

John Cummins TD

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning

Copied to:

- Cathaoirleach, Sligo County Council, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo, F91 Y763.
- Director, Northern and Western Regional Assembly, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, F45 WY26.
- Office of the Planning Regulator, Park House, Grangegorman, 191-193A North Circular Road, Dublin 7, D07 EWV4.