

From: Roderic Jamieson [REDACTED]
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To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Submission to Draft National Planning Framework 2040

As a rural dweller and Dublin city worker, it is critical that the national planning framework does not diminish the quality of my family's life or my ability to work in either location as a result of planning changes.

More attention needs to be paid to ensuring growth is also distributed outside of Dublin.

Key to this are the following elements

- 1) Rapid decision on National Broadband Plan and expedited delivery to compensate from recurring delays on a decision since 2012. Decent broadband in rural Ireland will facilitate local businesses, development, home-working, uplift in new online businesses and entrepreneurship. It will also support the more even distribution of new Direct Foreign Investment and as a result reduce pressure on Dublin and uplift the rest of the country as well as reducing the need for commuting due to ability to work locally on a global and flexible basis.
- 2) No loss of local control of planning to Dublin-based planning groups or over-riding of local planning in favour of supposed "strategic" infrastructure planning, which in reality are just the Irish government favouring corporates over its citizens. Data-centres are not "strategic" in that they do not bring any direct benefit to Irish citizens and will result in pressure on electricity infrastructure and increase electricity costs to Irish consumers and businesses due to required investment in grid infrastructure and increased pressure to implement Wind Farms, resulting in a massive increase in subsidisation. Reference the impacts to economies such as South Australia from an over-reliance on a single type of renewable energy. This needs to be diversified and become more favourable towards self-generation / demand-reduction and other forms of renewable energy.
- 3) In respect of climate change, the government needs to re-focus its prioritisation of industrial on-shore wind-farms to a more citizen / consumer friendly approach such as retro-fitting of houses (grant's ?), support for micro-generation of electricity and demand reduction on the grid as a result (house based solar panels, micro-turbines, credit for feed into the grid - in line with best practice in other EU countries)
- 4) Investment should be focused on benefits to Irish citizens and consumers, local employment generation as a result of home retro-fitting / micro-generation etc, rather than just benefiting large companies / corporates / foreign investment funds / vulture funds.
- 5) Encourage homes to adopt more environmentally friendly forms of heating such as geo-thermal, heat-pumps, battery-storage of electricity from solar panels & micro-turbines
- 6) Cease the end-less delay on Wind Farm Guidelines, whilst ensuring compliance with the Aarhus convention in respect of citizens participation in the planning processes. Do not over-ride citizens rights ! Remove barriers to
- 7) Ensure local councils are enabled to independently monitor noise from wind farms and this data is transparent, accessible and acted upon. This will increase confidence that citizens rights are being protected and reduce the risk of the Irish government becoming liable for damages in this respect.

regards

Roderic Jamieson

