

08 NOV 2017

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Tues. Nov. 7th 2017

RE. "Ireland 2040 - Our Plan"

"ALL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE
TO NATURE'S RECOVERY"

A Chairde,

The writer notes your invitation under National Planning Framework for the Public's "views and opinions".

Enclosed please find copy letter from Customs House dated May 16th, 2012 - no further response issued consequently, although several requests followed for guidance from Dept. Planning.

Our Local Authority (County Hall, Cork) directed this writer to Customs House as they were unable to confirm or otherwise the status of wetlands and Field Boundaries.

OBSERVATIONS :- On commenting on the "role

of planning in responding to climate change" (No. 8 on Topics list, as advertised); drainage of wetlands and grubbing out of field boundaries in the Upper Lee River Basin (West Muskerry) has proceeded unabated for two decades.

The specific queries raised by letter with Minister for Housing and Planning:— are field boundaries

- delisted under the Planning Acts; is initial afforestation an exempted development (Section 8A of the 2011 Planning Amendment Regs. purports to so provide) and what volume of wetland is protected under the EIA Directive/Regulations?
- Initially 120 Acres of wetland or below was exempt from E.I.A; then 48 Acres of wetland or below was exempt from drainage and what remains unclear is what now is the threshold — some sources say $\frac{1}{4}$ Acre (.10 Hectare) and other sources tell that above 2 Acres wetland an EIA is mandatory.

Surely the role of Planning in mitigating Climate Change includes "enforcement" —

how can planners "enforce" if they cannot promptly provide information to active and concerned citizens - folk who do know the value of "Wetlands" and "Hedgerows" to flood mitigation; Carbon Sequestration; leachate prevention and "affordable housing" for our Wildlife - primarily our Bats that are declining as a result of loss of permanent and linear features. (Winter has surveyed for Bats since 1990).

Surely, before we address planning for 2040, all relevant Agencies associated with landscape; Rural Development; N.P.W.S.; Water Directive Implementation; Forest Service / Coillte; Planning Authorities and Teagasc need to enforce what existing enactments are in place. Many conservationists continue to be sent from pillar to post, in our quest to support Best Practice and both prevent and highlight Environmental Crime and Injustice - which

is ubiquitous. Senior Adviser Nial Cussons ought to be alerted that ^{ESB} hynacs entered the Gearagh S.A.C. nearby and vandalized 2 kilometers of public pathway.



Óifig an Aire Tithíochta agus Pleanáil
Office of the Minister for Housing and Planning



Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

3/8/12

Please Quote Ref: REP749/JOS/12

16 May, 2012.

Mr. Ted Cook [REDACTED]

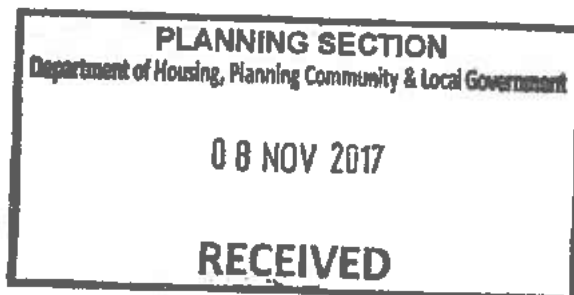
Dear Mr. Cook,

I have been asked by Ms. Jan O'Sullivan T.D., Minister for Housing and Planning, to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter concerning thresholds for Wetland Reclamation/Drainage.

The content of your correspondence has been referred to Department Officials for their consideration.

Yours sincerely,


Aisling Glynn
Private Secretary



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