To whom it may concern,

I read some interesting statistics in The Independent News which state that 48% of our economic output occurs in Dublin. This reflects concerns that I have about the prosperity of Ireland's economy as a whole.

It is common sense to identify that almost half of your country's jobs are in one county. It's dense, it can lead to overcrowding. It can lead to inflating house prices. It can lead to urban sprawl which leads to increased traffic. Increased traffic means delays which can cause people to become frustrated. It is not human nature to sit in a vehicle for four hours per day. It will impede on people's lifestyle which can lead to negative mental and physical health implications.

I am 26 and living at home with my Mother in Co.Leitrim. There is little or no suitable work in my field of expertise. Any advertised jobs that are somewhat suitable are based on Dublin. As the cost of living has increased so significantly in Dublin, I cannot apply for work there as I (a) cannot afford to pay the rent and refuse to pay such inflated prices for a room in a house and (b) will not spend four hours of my day commuting as it would impede on a healthy lifestyle, as outlined above. I am faced with the option of staying in Leitrim/Cavan with no suitable work, which is not proving to be a favorable situation to be in, or going to live in countries such as Australia, New Zealand or Canada, which would be a new experience and an exciting opportunity, if only I didn't love Ireland too much to leave it.

My story is just an example of how this increasingly centralized job concentration in Dublin is unfavourable. I would like to know what procedures are being put in place to ensure that rural towns will not get left behind and people like me will have a better chance of employment in their rural setting.

Look forward to hearing from you,

Your Sincerely,
Gráinne Conaty
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Gráinne Conaty Marketing Exec