

SUBMISSION TO IRELAND 2040 PLAN

Information about Keep Ireland Open

KIO is a voluntary organisation whose aim is to lobby for the legal right to reasonable access to the countryside which is the norm in virtually all European countries but is denied to us. Our membership covers a broad spectrum of recreational users of our countryside, rural organisations and environmental groups including An Oige, Scouting Ireland, Catholic Guide of Ireland, An Taisce, Friends of the Irish Environment, Federation of Local History Societies, Irish Hang Gliding & Paragliding & Irish Rural Link. See our web-site: www.keepirelandopen.org.

Rural Development

The **NSS** in Chpts 3 & 5 recognises the importance of tourism including visitors from urban areas to rural areas. In particular we would refer you to the following:

3.5.3 Strengthening Environmental Qualities 1st para 4th pt

5.2.2 Box 5.1 Strategic Tourism Opportunities 4

5.2.3 Employment in Agriculture, Marine and Natural Resources 4th para 3rd pt

6th para 3rd pt

Note The phrase *rights of way for long distance walking* clearly doesn't make sense. A spokesman from your Dept has informed us that he thinks that if *walking routes* was substituted for *rights of way* it would make sense. We agree.

6.3 Statutory Support 4th para 2nd pt

We submit that you should include this substituting the *NPG* for the *NSS*.

A We submit that you should include also the need to provide access to and protection of:

- 1 Amenities and Natural Heritage
- 2 AONB
- 3 Archaeological sites and National Monuments
- 4 Coastal areas
- 5 Forestry(including private forestry)

Note As private forestry attracts substantial Government grants we submit that reasonable access should be available.

- 6 Geological Sites
- 7 Historic Churches and Graveyards
- 8 Inland Waterways
- 9 Islands
- 10 Peatlands
- 11 Wetlands

B We submit that you should also provide for the encouragement of walking, cycling and other active countryside recreational activities.

C We submit that you should also provide for the protection of our environment from potentially damaging activities such as extraction and mining, land reclamation, electrical transmission, telecommunication antennae, noise generating sports and rural tourism development.

D Protection of views and prospects

E We presume that you will be monitoring the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016 in respect of Part 3 7 National Planning Framework. We would draw your attention to 20C(2) (b) last phrase & (d) & 5.

E Interaction between the above mentioned Bill and the NPG

Presumably it was the Government's intention that the Planning Bill would have been enacted prior to the drawing up of the NPF. Consequentially we trust that supplementary submissions will be accepted when the Bill is enacted.

KEEP IRELAND OPEN

Mar 2017