



NPF Submissions,  
Forward Planning Section,  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
Community and Local Government,  
Custom House,  
Dublin D01 W6X0

16 March 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Response to Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework.**

On behalf of the School of Computing at Dublin City University, I wish to make the following submissions to the National Planning Framework in response to Ireland 2040 – Our Plan:

We are concerned that there is no discussion around the use of software, data management, smart solutions, analytics and visualisation as these would be fundamental to drive the societal change and address the challenges ahead for Ireland for 2040. In our opinion, the use of innovative technologies (such as smart devices) is essential and the digitalisation in all aspects of society is one key pillar for the future development and investment in Ireland. This “**data**” **driven society** will be one of the key element of a modern ‘infrastructure’ for Ireland 2040. At the same time **data needs to be effectively managed** to ensure data privacy and security, and thus acceptance within the society as a valuable resource to identify and drive future societal changes.

Aspects of **digitalisation and the data driven society underpinned by effective data management** is not reflected in the document at present. *In section 2.3.3 an item could be included that the digitalisation and a data driven economy will be key to drive the required societal change and to manage the planning and development process.*

Digitalisation and effective data management can improve People’s Health and Well-Being (**Section 3**) by using data and innovative technology to healthcare and wellbeing. Connected health, ambient assisted living, smart ageing and smart healthcare using innovative IoT (Internet of Things) devices and Analytics are just some examples currently implemented. Effective approaches for Data Management ensuring data privacy and security will be key for realising the benefits these technological solutions offer.

*In section 3 Within ‘Where to Next?’ a bullet could be added: A data-driven society will provide the essential insights into key aspects of People’s Health and Well-being so that so that all people can benefit.*

In **Section 4** a number of important questions are listed. However, in order to provide insights to these key questions, in our opinion, a national data infrastructure needs to be established, that provides open, secure and managed access to required data. Underpinned by technological innovation data needs to be sourced, analysed and managed. Aspects of data management, data quality and data privacy are essential for a data driven society.

*In section 4, within 'Where to Next?' a bullet could be added: A data-driven society will provide the essential insights into key aspects so that so that our urban societies and people can benefit.*

Indeed **Section 6** emphasise the importance of 'joined-up thinking' and up-front decision-making. In our opinion a data-driven society will provide the basis to understand how smart and connectivity can provide us with a more effective use of systems such as healthcare and transportation. Using data effectively, in an open and secure environment, can provide insights into behavioural changes and impacts to other domains, thus facilitating 'joined-up thinking'.

*6.1.1 Data management is very important and should be included. Under 'Where to Next?', an additional bullet could be included: An open and secure data infrastructure can provide insights into key aspects of societal challenges and changes. Effective data management is essential to ensure data privacy and security.*

The academic saff of the School of Computing are at your disposal for firther input and I would be happy to be contacted regarding same.

Yours sincerely



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*Professor Rory V. O'Connor  
Head of School of Computing*

