I confine my submission ,in the main, to the South East region as that is where I live.
For Ireland and its people to prosper there has to be balanced regional development and an active policy to promote the bulk of new jobs being created outside of Dublin. Many of the jobs that are over concentrated in Dublin, to the detriment inter alia of Dublin, commuters ,house prices and rental cost levels should be decentralised to Cork ,Limerick, Waterford , Galway and Sligo in equal shares. A motorway from Cork to Limerick has been proposed but instead a motorway should be developed between Limerick and Waterford which would bisect and link in to the Cork to Dublin motorway and thereby create a far better transport system. It would effectively give access from Rosslare through Limerick on to Galway as well as creating the Cork to Limerick motorway. It would facilitate tourist travel to the West and commercial travel from and to the West to Waterford and Rosslare ports. For the South East region to prosper there needs to be a strong regional city. The boundary extension of Waterford to restore, in the main, the areas which were transferred from Waterford to County Kilkenny by the Local Government Act 1898 should be implemented promptly .That would enable the city of Waterford to develop in a balanced way as such a regional city should. The development of the Waterford North Quays SDZ should be funded. The South East needs a university.Waterford Institute of Technology has many attributes of a university but the obstacles which have been placed in the path to university status should be removed. Waterford Regional Hospital was the regional hospital and should be restored to that and given the facilities and staff much promised but not delivered. Extension of the runway of Waterford airport should take place to enable the known commercial and tourist demand for air transport from the region to be satisfied. The above should form part of the forthcoming plan but also a commitment to delivery before long is needed.If so the regional towns near Waterford will also benefit and many villages especially in south Kilkenny , south Tipperary and west Wexford will be sustained by the development of a strong regional capital in Waterford.
Gerard O' Connor ████████████████