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To: National Planning Framework
Subject: NPF Submission

I am 100% supportive of the aims and objectives of the NPF particularly as it aims to address the numerous infrastructural deficits of my home city Waterford to develop it as one of a number of counter weights to the unchecked expansion of Greater Dublin..

Therefore, in my opinion, it is critical that the legislation to enact the NPF compels every government department, semi-state body and agency to adapt the NPF and not ignore it if its aims clash with their sectional interests. This was one of the main reasons for the failure of the NSS.

In particular I will point out the following;

1. University Hospital Waterford is threatened with down-grading and critical regional functions moved to Cork as part of the aims of the Dept. of Health and South-South West Hospital Group HQ'd in Cork. This is not consistent with developing Waterford to achieve 'critical mass'.
2. WIT is being forced into a 'doomed to fail' shotgun marriage with Carlow IT to achieve University status by the Dept. of Education. Two main campuses 80Km apart while DIT consolidates at Grangegorman?? This is not consistent with developing Waterford to achieve 'critical mass'.
3. Waterford Airport is caught in a 'chicken and egg' scenario by the Dept. of Transport in its efforts to expand the runway to attract new scheduled carriers. The dept. won't invest until a carrier is in place. Compare this miserly attitude to the billions spent on Aer Rianta airports in Dublin, Cork & Shannon. This is not consistent with developing Waterford to achieve 'critical mass'.
4. IDA visits to Waterford have fallen drastically in the past year despite Waterford and the South East in general having above average unemployment. The IDA regional manager transferred out recently and has not been replaced so far. This is not consistent with developing Waterford to achieve 'critical mass'.

Examples of a lack of infrastructural spending in Waterford by numerous government departments over decades are legion as successive governments have paid lip service to Waterford's role as regional capital of the South East and 'Gateway' (mar dhea) . The NPF needs to be locked in and fast-tracked cross-department to be successful.

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