



**COMMISSIONER**  
Dr D O'Neill BSc DipTP PHD MRTPI

**PROGRAMME OFFICER**  
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Mr Patrick Haughey

**REFERENCE**  
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**By Email only**

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10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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## **Independent Examination Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Local Development Plan: Plan Strategy**

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Dear Mr Haughey

During the Independent Examination of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy hearing session on Renewable Energy, held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, you alluded to the fact that you had lost internet connection towards the end of the hearing session on Minerals Development held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 and that there was further information that you wanted to bring to the attention of Commissioner O'Neill.

As stated in the Remote Hearings Protocol, you were advised that if you lost connection that you should immediately contact the administrator by email; such an email was not received until after the session had closed. As you were informed during the hearing session on Renewable Energy, the topic of Minerals Development was discussed extensively over two days and is now closed. You were informed at the start of the hearing session on Minerals Development that participants were normally only going to be asked to speak once on each question. You were permitted an opportunity to contribute to every question discussed during the two days of discussions including in relation to the final question on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 on which you made a contribution.

The main purpose of the public hearings is to enable the Commissioner to obtain the information and/or clarification needed to conclude on the matters before her. As stated within the Guidance Notes for Participants and as you were informed at the hearing session on Renewable Energy, it is very important that all participants appreciate that the focus of the public hearing sessions and her report will be on the soundness of the Plan and not on individual representations. The published questions therefore related only to matters that the Commissioner needed to clarify with the parties in establishing whether the Plan is sound. If the issue that you wish to now raise was not within the Commissioner's agenda, then that

does not mean that it has been set aside; it will be considered within the report together with those raised in submissions that are being pursued by written representations.

If, however the information that you alluded to relates to a change in material circumstances, this written submission, if you wish to submit it, must solely be in relation to what you consider to be the important change in circumstances which have occurred since the plan was referred for Independent Examination and anything else will be duly returned. This is not an opportunity for you to expand on your previous representations or on matters previously discussed at the hearing sessions. As well as an electronic version, four copies will be required in paper format of any material submitted. You indicated at the hearing session on Renewable Energy that you intend to make this submission by 4pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and this should be adhered to. A late response will be returned or disregarded.

A copy of this letter and any response that is received will be posted in the FO Examination Library on our website.

Yours sincerely

*Barry Fegan*

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**Programme Officer**