



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

NOTICE OF DRAFT MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

in relation to

VARIATION NO 2 TO THE COUNTY DONEGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012- 2018 (AS VARIED)

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)- SECTION 31(7)

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

1. On 22nd July 2014 the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government, notified Donegal County Council of his intent to issue a Direction pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The draft Ministerial Direction relates to Variation No. 2 to the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied).
2. The reasons given for the draft Direction are:
 - (a) A written submission on the proposed Variation No. 2 to County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 was made to Donegal County Council on behalf of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in May 2014.

The written submission outlined that the proposed amendments concerning the Planning Authority's policy framework for wind energy projects would be significantly inconsistent with:

- The Wind Energy Guidelines, (issued under section 28 of the Planning and Development Acts, in 2006);
 - The Border Regional Authority Regional Planning Guidelines, in relation to the areas identified as suitable for wind energy/renewable energy development;
 - National targets for generation of energy consumption from renewable energy sources by 2020, (as derived from EC Directive 2009/28 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources); and
 - National Government policy commitments to increase on and offshore wind energy production indicated in the Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020.
- (b) The decision by the members to alter the policies and objectives in regard to the wind energy objectives does not provide for proper planning and sustainable development and therefore the County Donegal Development

Plan 2012-2018 is not in compliance with the requirements of s.9, s.10, s.12, and s.28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

3. A copy of the draft Direction may be inspected during normal office hours, Monday to Thursday (9am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 5.00pm), and Friday (9am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 4.30pm), from **5th August 2014 to 18th August 2014 (both dates inclusive)** at the following Council offices:
 - The Planning Office, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford.
 - Letterkenny Public Services Centre, Neil T. Blaney Road, Letterkenny.
 - Milford Public Services Centre, Main St., Milford.
 - Dungloe Public Services Centre, Gweedore Road, Dungloe.
 - Carndonagh Public Services Centre, Malin Road, Carndonagh.
 - Donegal Town Public Services Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town.
4. Written submissions or observations in respect of the draft Direction may be made to the Council so as to be received no later than 5.00pm on the **18th August 2014** and shall be taken into consideration by the Minister before he directs the Council as planning authority pursuant to the above section. Any such submissions or observations can be made either by email to donegalcdp@donegalcoco.ie or by post to Mr. D. Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Central Planning Unit, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal.

DATED THIS 31st DAY OF JULY 2014

Mícheál Ó hEanaígh,
Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Development Planning,
County House,
Lifford,
County Donegal.

NOTE: In addition to meeting the formal statutory requirements for inspection of the Draft Direction as above, the Council intends to make it available for viewing online at www.donegalcoco.ie and also at its library facilities in the county during their respective normal opening hours.