From: <u>CARMEL KELLY</u> on behalf of <u>planning mailbox</u>

To: MARTINA PARKE (PLANNING)
Subject: Section 5 application
Date: 18 September 2025 8:38:27
Attachments: 20250917162353203.pdf

From: Seamus Carr <seamus@studiomove.ie>

Sent: 17 September 2025 16:07

To: planning mailbox <Planning@Donegalcoco.ie>

Cc:

Subject: Fw: Message from "RNP583879850B6C"

You don't often get email from seamus@studiomove.ie. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Donegal County Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are sure that the content is safe.

Dear Sirs!

Please find attached the documentation for a section 5 declaration.

Receipt ref 666166.

Regards Seamus

From: micheal@studiomove.ie < micheal@studiomove.ie >

Sent: Wednesday 17 September 2025 4:23 pm

To: Seamus < seamus@studiomove.ie >

Subject: Message from "RNP583879850B6C"

This E-mail was sent from "RNP583879850B6C" (IM C3000).

Scan Date: 09.17.2025 16:23:53 (+0100)
Queries to: micheal@studiomove.ie



RECEIVED DATE: 19/09/2025



SECTION 5 APPLICATION

FOR DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

Completed application form & supporting documentation to be returned to the Planning Authority by email to planning@donegalcoco.ie

Name of Applicant(s):	SHAUN KEENEY
Agent Name: (if applicable)	SEAMUS CAPE BARCHITECTS
Location of Proposed Development / Works: (Townland or postal address as appropriate and Eircode if available)	RAY, RAMELTON, CO DONEGAL F92 WY 48
Description of Proposed Development (Only works listed below will be assessed	including details of works (where applicable): under this section 5 application)
DEENED EXEMPT (SECTIONS DE ADPLICATION IS LOOSE AND I	THE EXISTING LADISE HALL BELLY, THE EXISTING LADISH ARE THE CONSIDERED EXEMPT THAT TO MR VINCENT





Is the development a Protected	Yes	No
Structure or within the curtilage of a Protected Structure?		√
Has a declaration under Section 57 of	Yes	No
the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) been requested or issued in respect of the property.		
Applicant(s) Interest in the site:	OWNER	
If not the Owner of the site, please provide the name of the Landowner:	a N/A	
Please list types of plans, drawings etc. submitted with this application:	SEE NOTE B	SELOCY
Planning History - list any relevant planning application reference numbers:	4	
Are you aware of any enforcement proceedings connected to the site? If so, please supply details:	NONE	

Signature of Applicant/Agent:	oformation provided is true and accurate
Date:	17th Sept 2025
NOTE,	
DRAWING/ENCLOSURES.	
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20 Revington Park, V94 X4EY 061 411601 hello@studiomove.ie www.studiomove.ie

Our Reference: 25.09

Date: 29.05.2025

Mr Vincent Cranley,
Vacant Homes Officer,
Ćommunity Development and Planning Services,
Donegal County Council,
Connal House, Lifford,
Co Donegal, F93 Y622

RE: Vacant property grant application at Ray, Ramelton, Co Donegal, F92 WY48

Dear Mr Cranley,

Further to your letter of the 26th inst., I can confirm that I am the Architect retained by Mr Shaun Keeney in connection with the above, and I wish to respond to your letter on his behalf.

Firstly, whilst the first floor windows in the existing house conform to the minimum sizes for escape, recommended in Part B of the Building Regulations, their juxtaposition to the floor make escape and rescue more difficult. To compensate for this, we have provided first floor door access to flat roofs in two locations as an alternative means of escape. As these flat roof areas were not intended as balconies, so there is currently no guarding to facilitate escape and rescue. However, guarding can be provided to overcome Health and Safety concerns.

Our opinion on compliance that the development is exempt was provided in good faith on the following basis;

- (a) the rear extension of the kitchen is 32.55m², (see drawing number 01, attached) is less than the 40m² max currently allowed.
- (b) The utility and loggia 2 (covered outdoor area) is effectively the conversion of an existing attached garage. This modification of the garage, I believe, is allowed under Section 4 (1) h of S.I. 30 of 2000.
- (c) The actual floor area of the front porch is 1.8m², less than the 2m² allowed for same.
- (d) The loggias 1, 2 & 3 are permitted as a class 3 exempted development being structures as described in Part 1 of the third schedule of S.I. 65 of 1977 in column 1, and being within the curtilage of a dwelling and being less than 3 meters in height, and not used for animals and being incidental to the enjoyment of the house, as identified in column 2 of the above.

Page 1 of 2

Barbara Carr B.Arch, MRIAI

Seamus Carr B.Arch.



Planning Services



20 Revington Park, V94 X4EY 061 411601 hello@studiomove.ie www.studiomove.ie

Our Reference: 25.09

Date: 29.05.2025

(e) While the extra first floor window is not exempt, I feel that this was a minor change in the scheme of things and in my opinion does not contravene good planning and development as envisaged in the development plan and accordingly didn't warrant in itself a full planning application.

I have attached Drawing Number 01, showing the areas referred to above outlined in green, blue and red. I have also attached Drawing Number 02, showing the original building's ground floor plan before the commencement of works. Whilst the above analysis is my understanding of exempt development, it is quite possible that I may have misinterpreted the regulations. If the Local Authority deem that I have erred in the above, then I will prepare a planning application for the retention and completion of any unauthorised development.

If such an application is deemed necessary and in the event that a grant of permission issues in respect of same, I would ask that you look favourably on Mr Keaney's grant application, bearing in mind that any mistake is not his and as you have noted, he has carried out the work to a high standard.

I wish to apologise for any inconvenience my Opinions of Compliance have created, and hope that we can remedy the situation without Mr Keeney suffering financial loss.

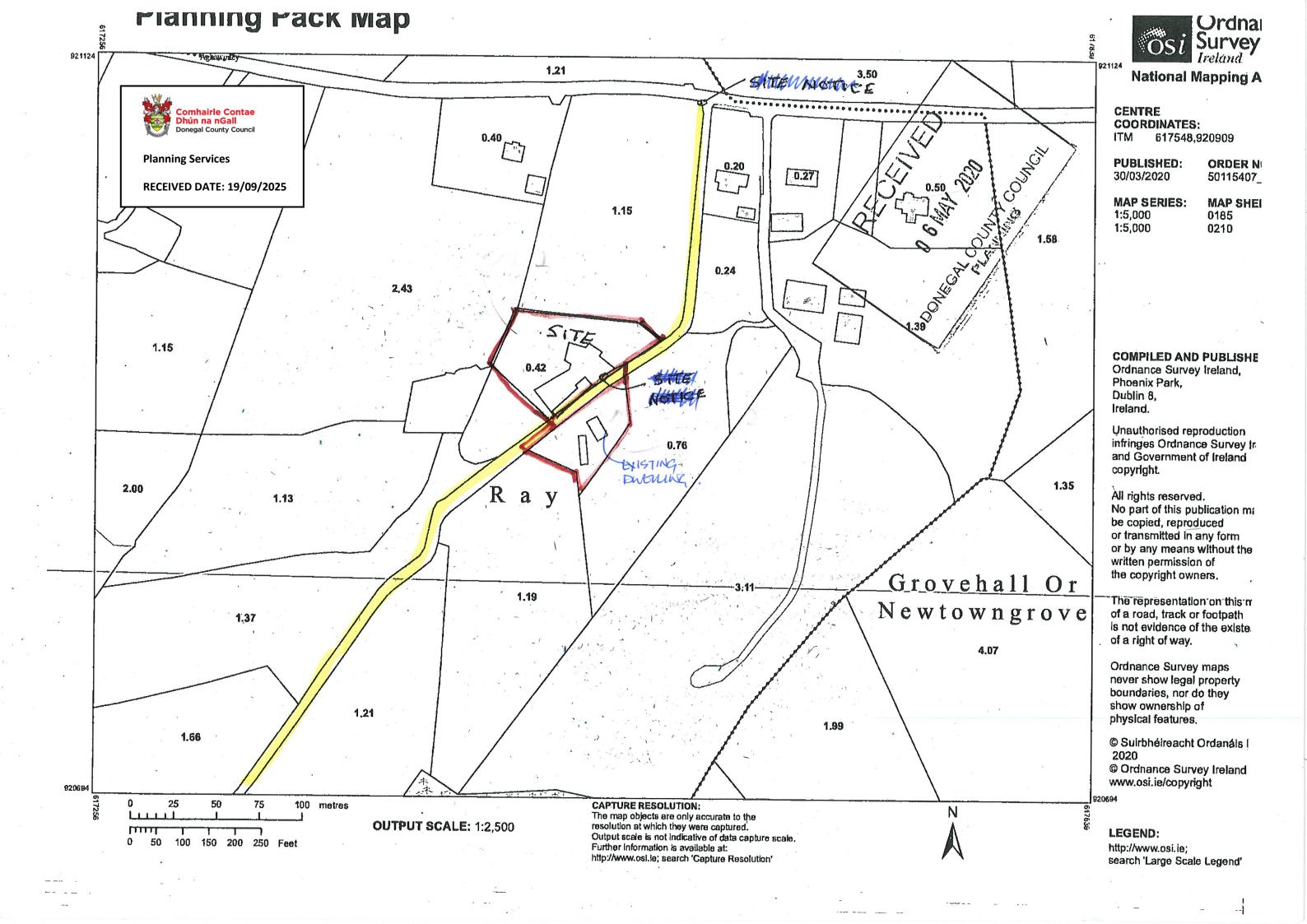
I look forward to hearing from you regarding the above,

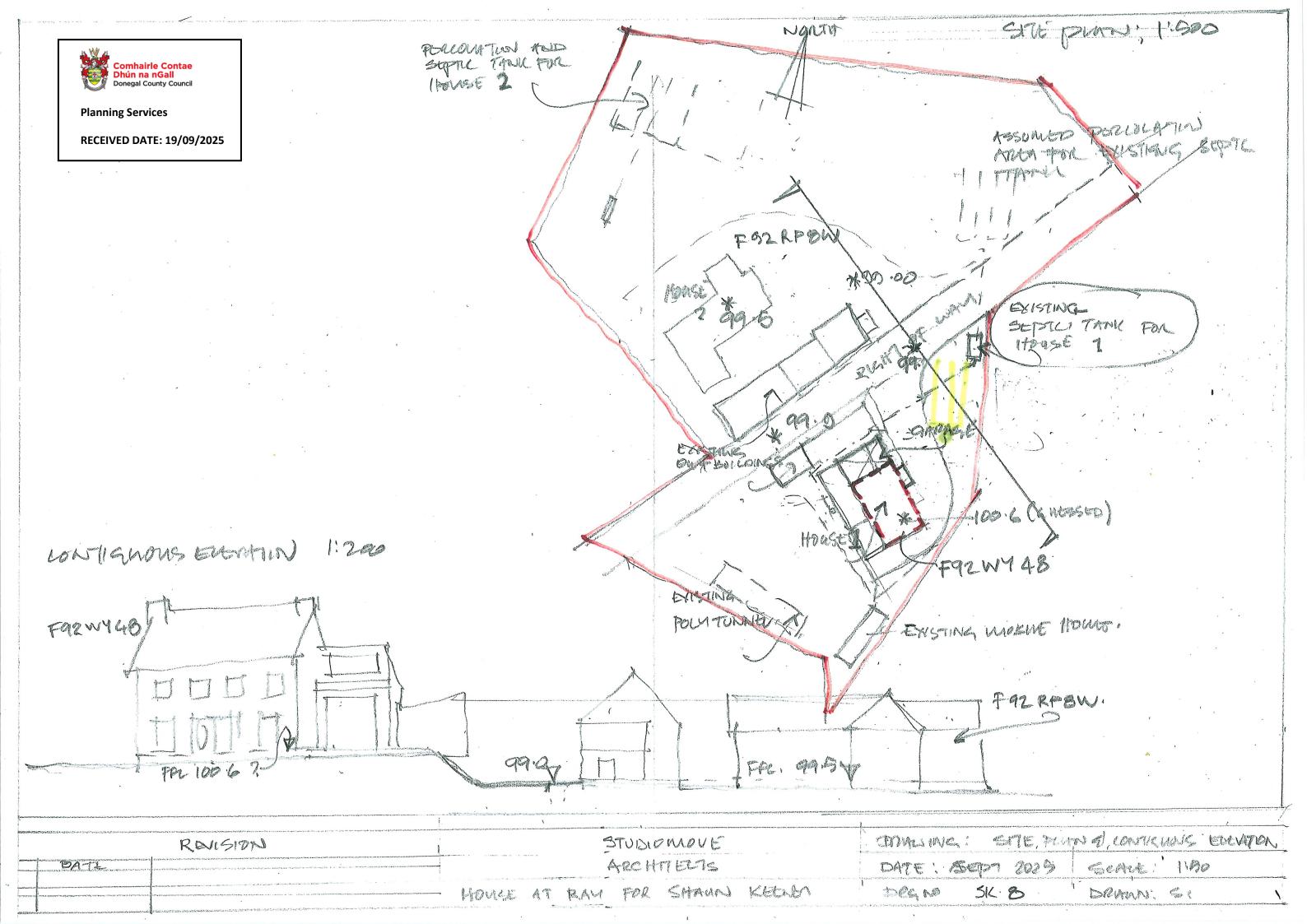
Yours **\$**incerely,

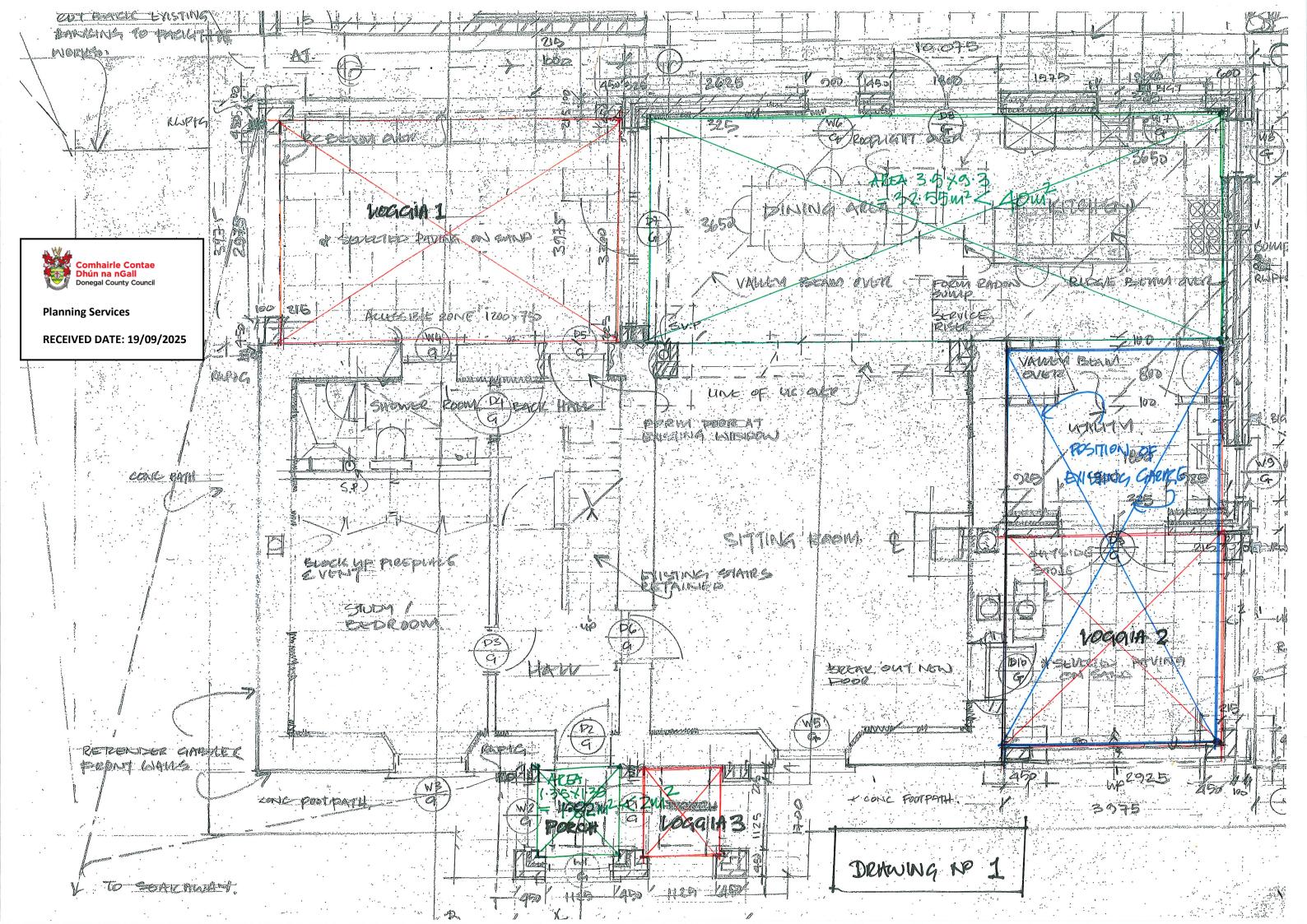
Seamus Carr, B.Arch.

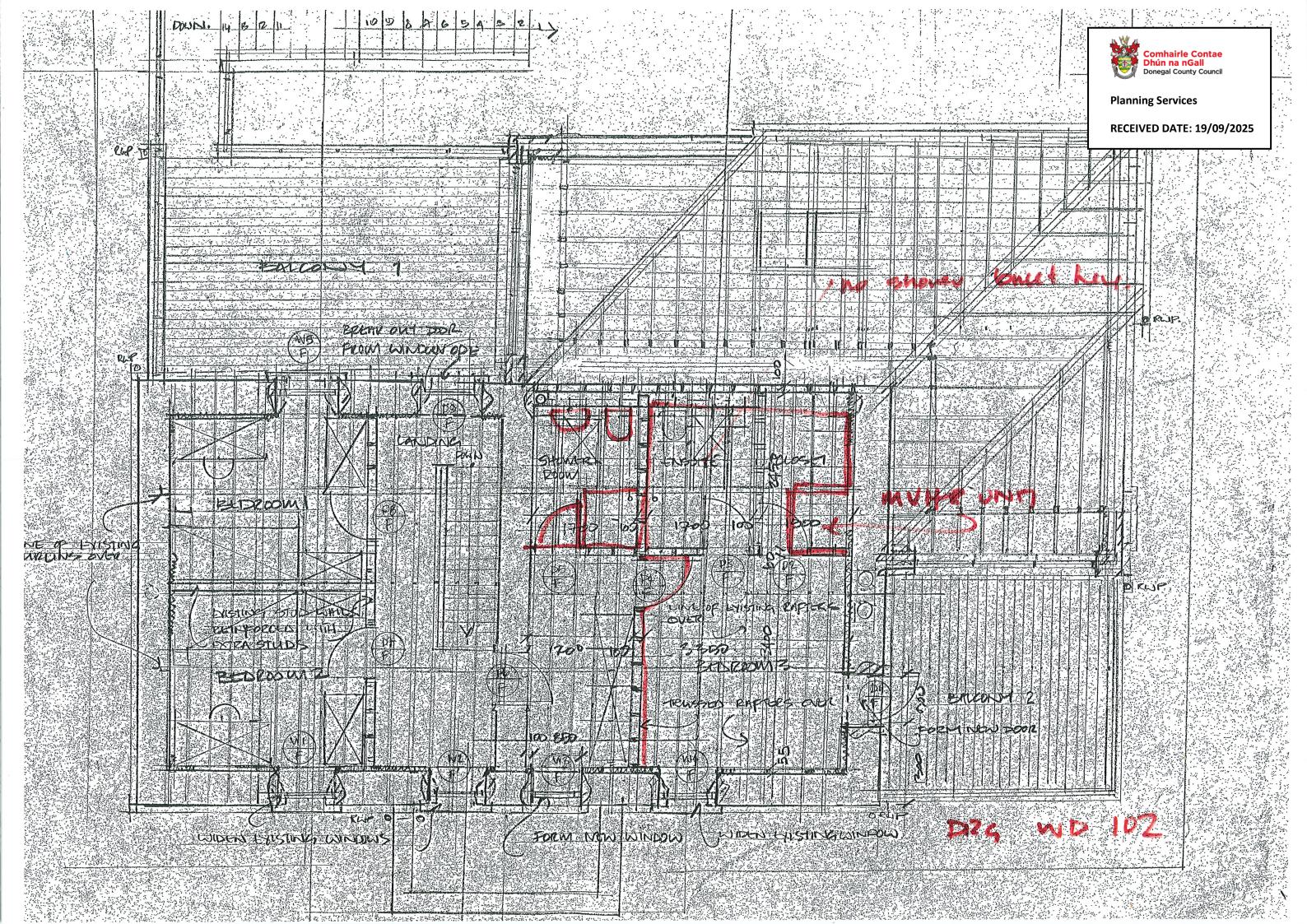
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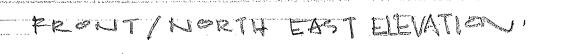
Page 2 of 2



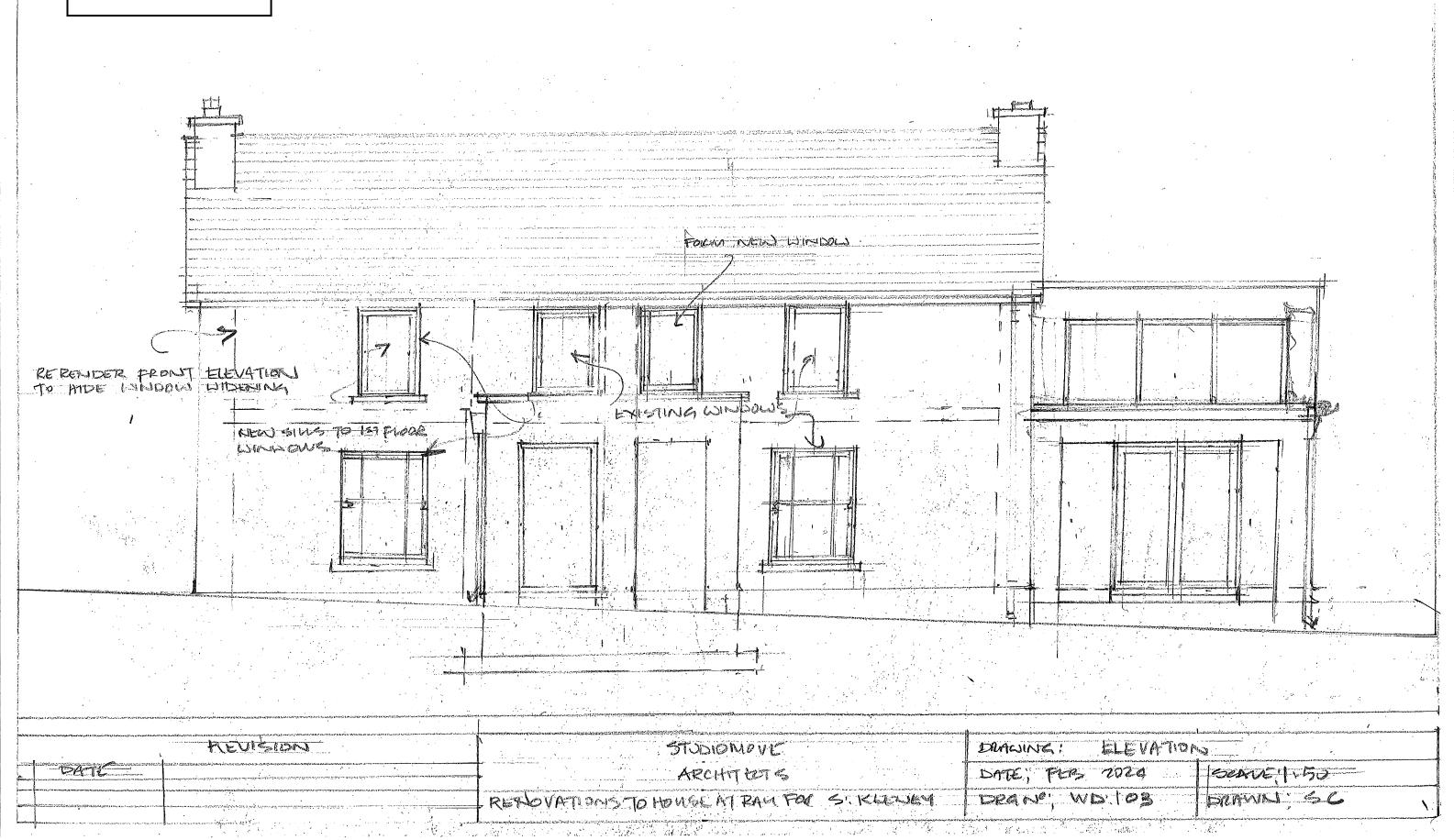




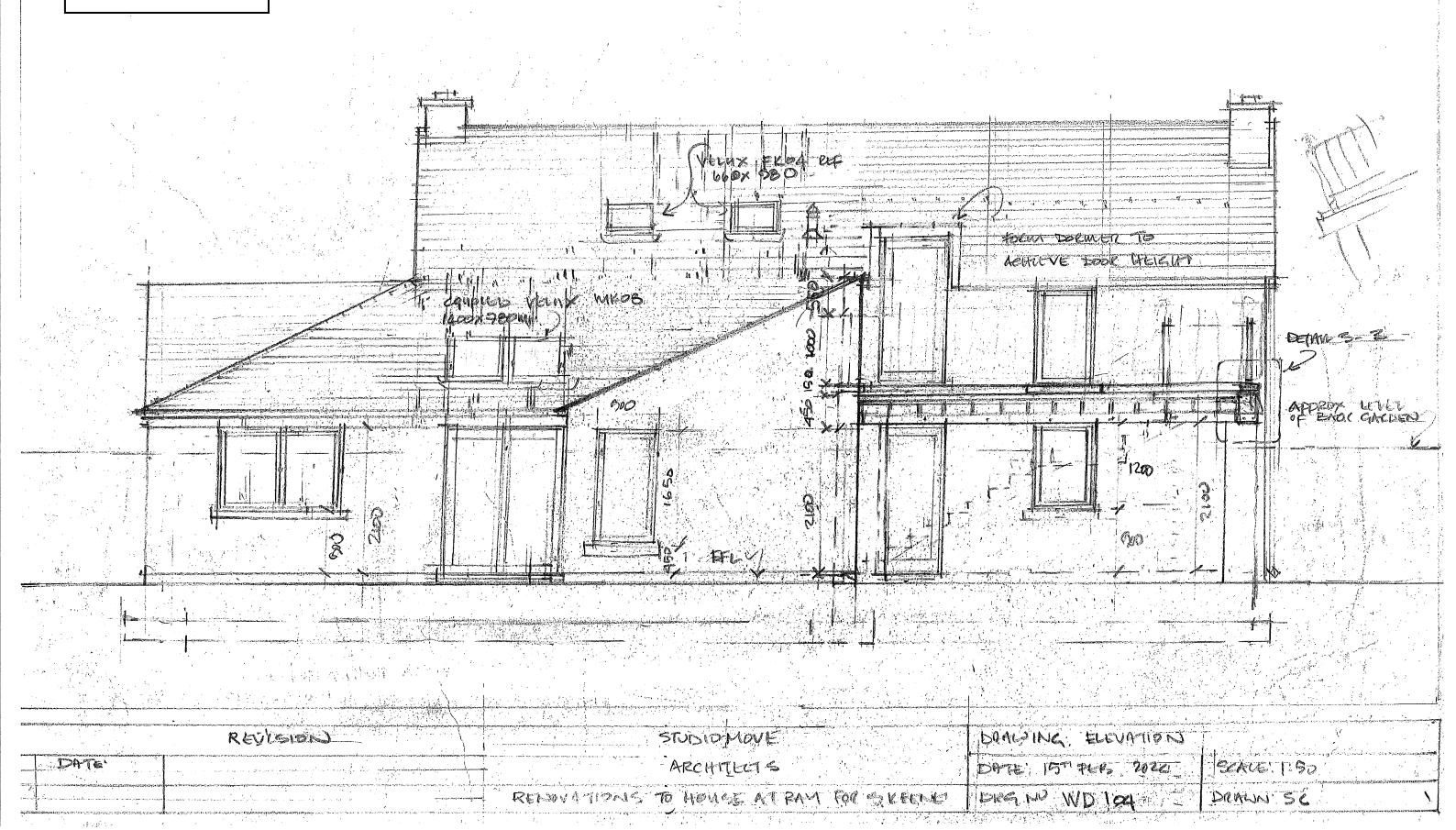




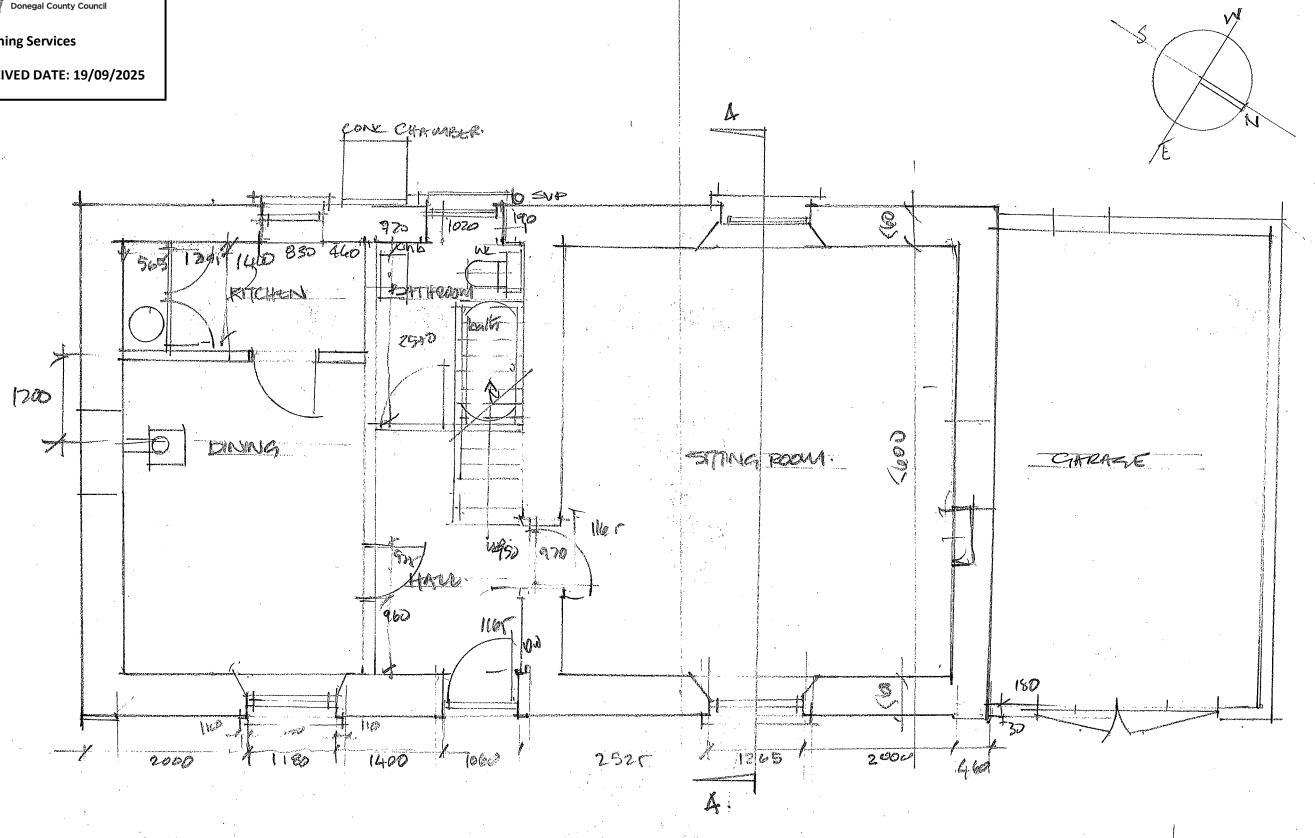




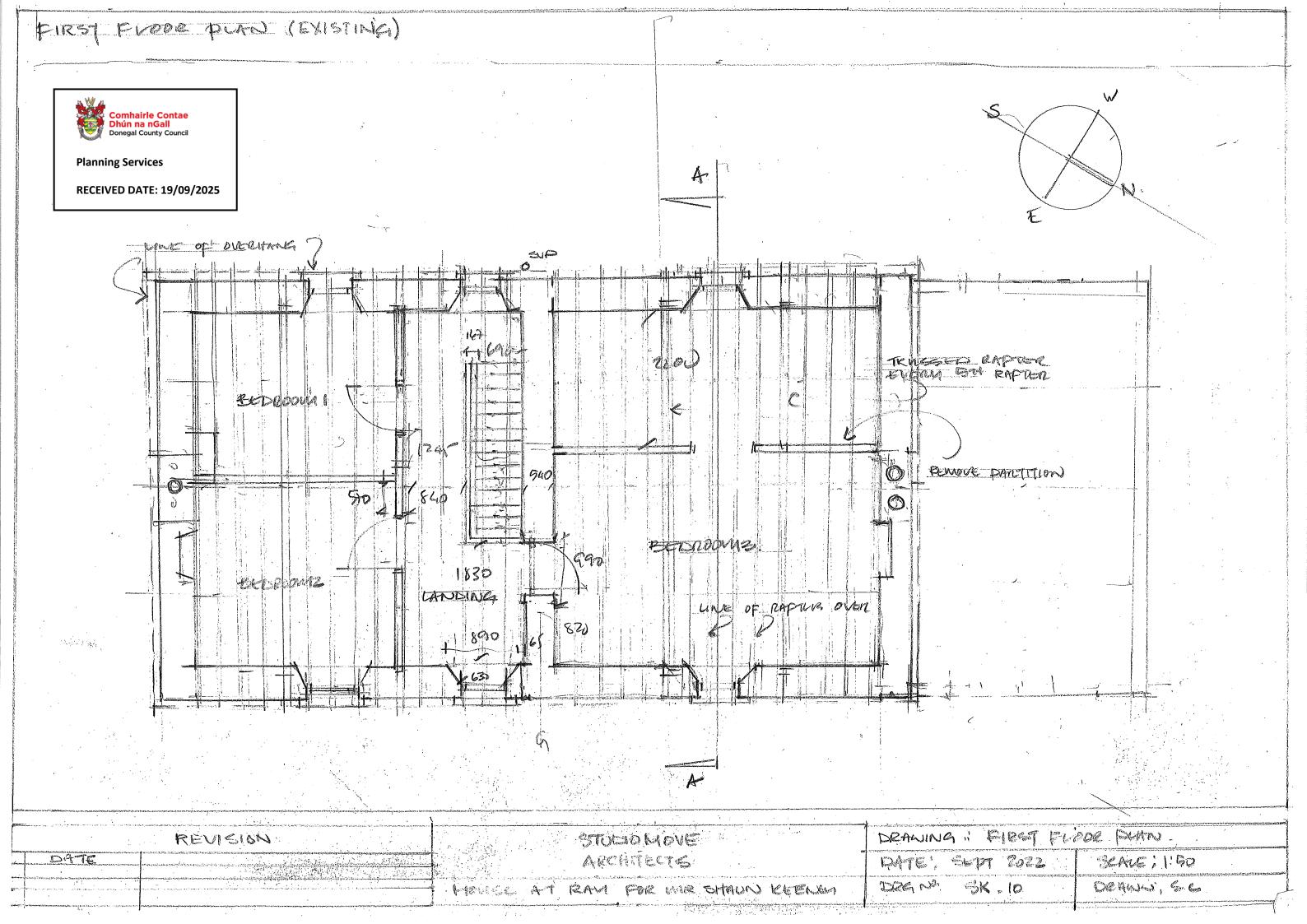






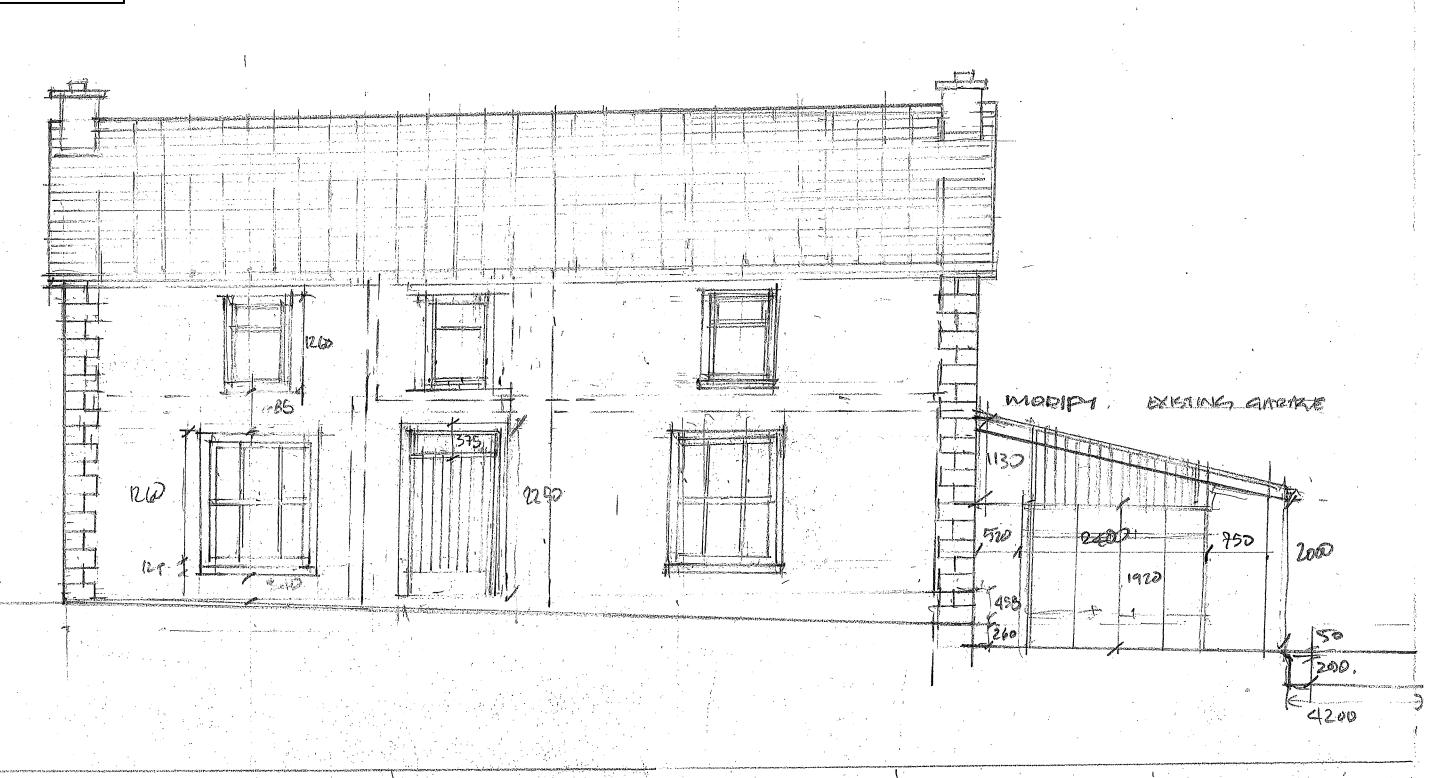


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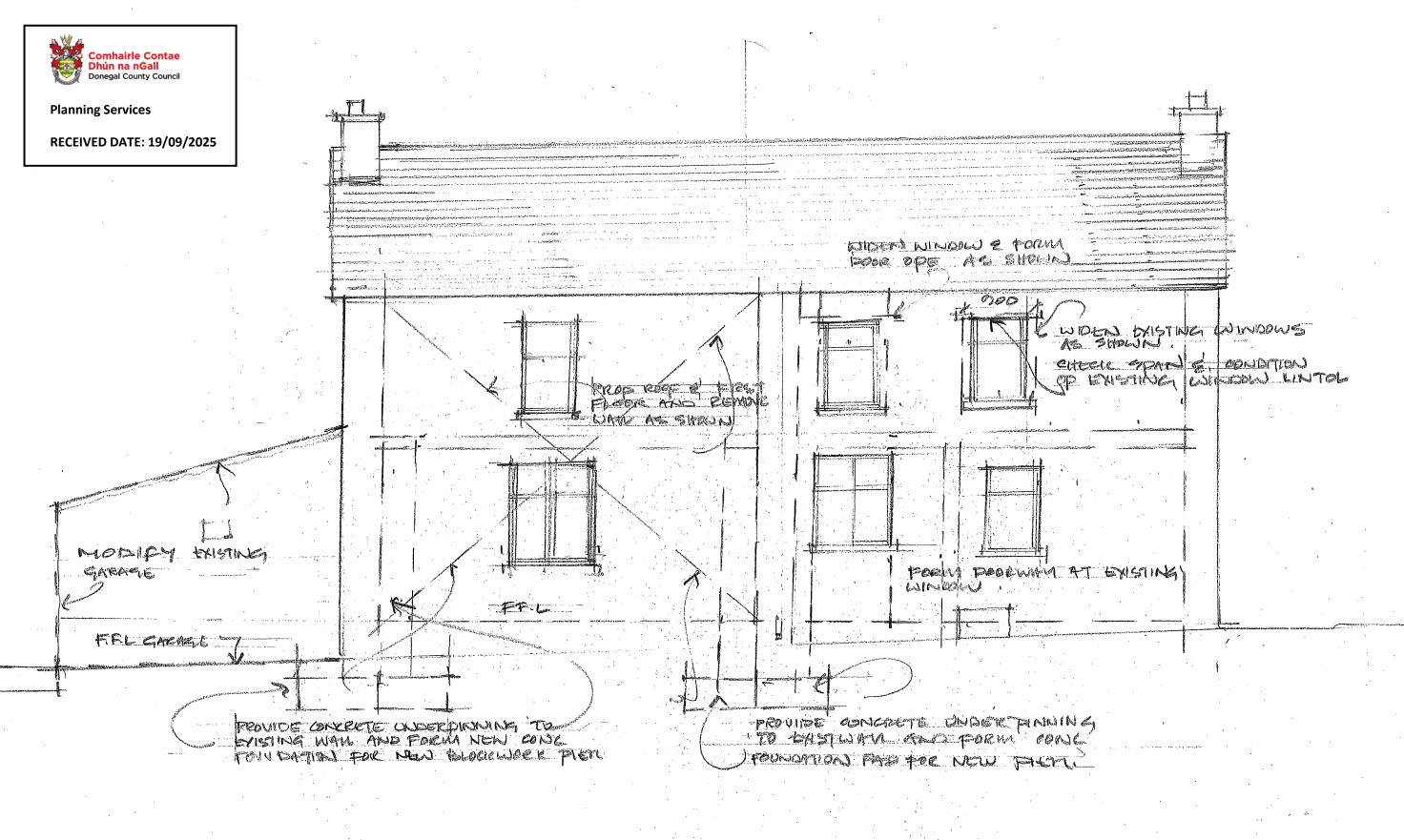






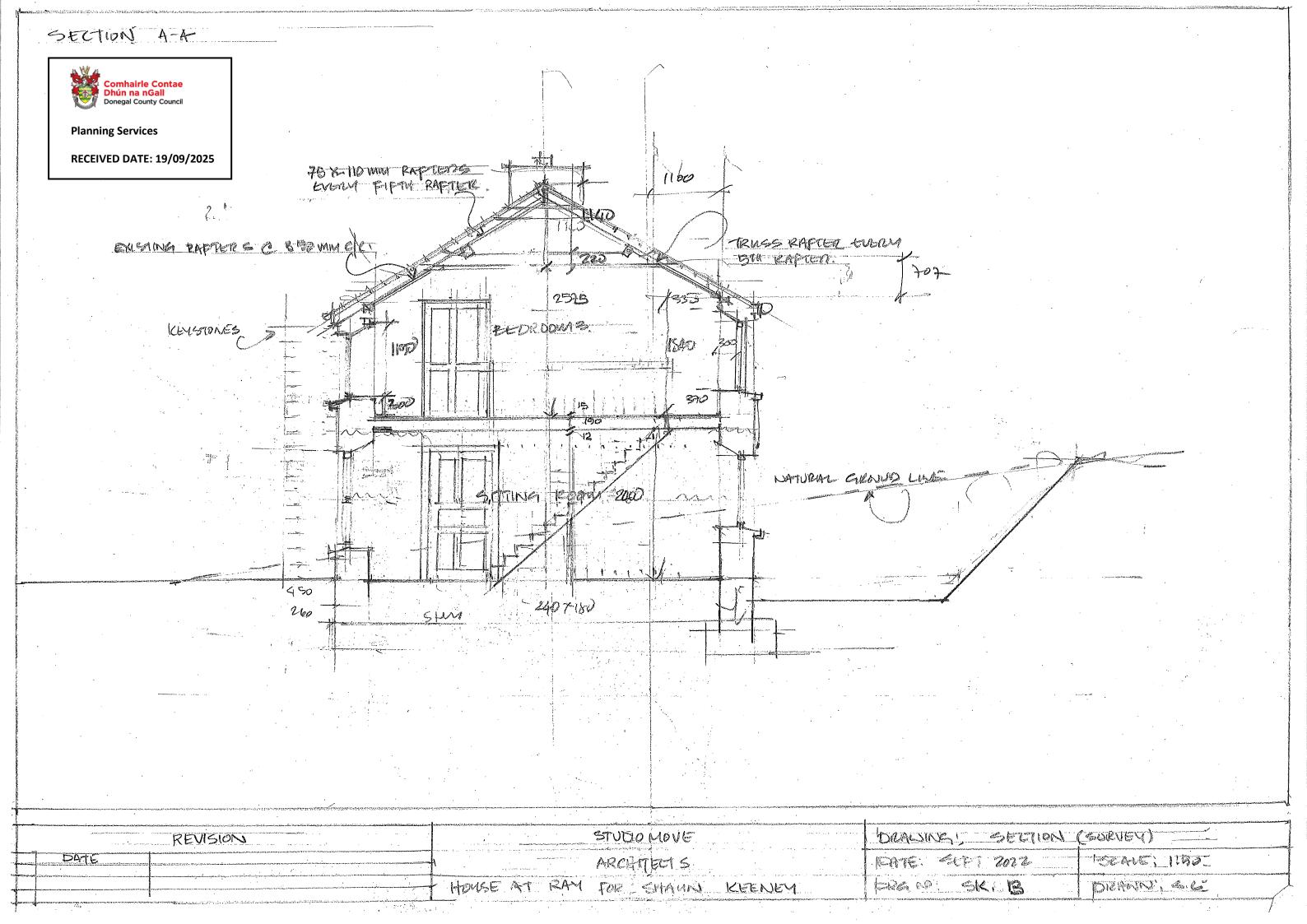
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Áras an Chontae, Leifear, Contae Dhún na nGall, F93 Y622

County House, Lifford, County Donegal, F93 Y622 T: 074 91 53900
E: info@donegalcoco.ie
W: www.donegalcoco.ie
W: www.cdhunnangall.ie

Planning Services

E: planning@donegalcoco.ie

E-mail: seamus@studiomove.ie

Our Ref: S525/75

24th September, 2025

Shaun Keeney

Re: Section 5 - Application for development at Ray, Ramelton, Co Donegal, F92 WY48

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your application received on 19th September, 2025 in relation to the above.

Yours sincerely,

Martina Parke

Donegal County Council Planning Services



SECTION 5 REFERRAL REPORT - Ref. No: S5 25/75

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Location:

Ray, Ramelton, Co. Donegal

1.2 Site Description:

The site is occupied by an existing recently renovated derelict two storey dwelling house and is located within the rural area of Ray Ramelton. No relevant planning history available.

1.3 Proposed Development:

It is noted that as per the submitted documents, the works have already been carried out which include the following:

- Rear extension of the kitchen measuring 32.55m2 floor space
- New utility and loggia 2 (covered outdoor area) which is effectively the conversion of an existing attached garage
- New front porch measuring 1.8m2
- 3 new loggias within the curtilage of the dwelling
- Additional first floor window

1.4 Planning History

2.0. THE QUESTION

The applicant Shaun Keeney has made a submission to Donegal County Council requesting that a Declaration be made under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) as to whether or not the works to the completed development are considered exempt or weather a retention application is required

3.0 EVALUATION

3.1 Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)

Section 2(1)

In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires –

"Structure" means any building, structure, excavation, or other thing constructed or made on, in or under any land, or any part of a structure so define, and

(a) Where the context so admits, includes the land on, in or under which the structure is situate...

"works" includes any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal....

Section 3(1)

"Development" in this Act means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.

Section 4(1)(h)

- **4.**—(1) The following shall be exempted developments for the purposes of this Act—
- (h) development consisting of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure or which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures;

Section 4(2)(a)

The Minister may by **regulations** provide for any class of development to be exempted development for the purposes of this Act where he or she is of the opinion that –

- (i) "by reason of the size, nature, or limited effect on its surroundings....."
- (ii) "the development is authorised, or is required to be authorised, by or under any enactment...."

Section 4(2(b)

"Regulations under paragraph (a) maybe subject to conditions and be of general application or apply to such area or place as may be specified in the regulations."

Section 4(2)(c)

"Regulations under this subsection may, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (a) provide, in the case of structures or other land used for a purpose of any specified class, for the use thereof for any other purposes being exempted development for the purposes of this Act".

Section 177U(9)

"In deciding upon a declaration for the purposes of Section 5 of this Act a planning authority or the Board, as the case maybe, shall where appropriate, conduct a screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with the provisions of this Section."

3.2 Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)

Article 6(1)

Subject to Article 9, development of class specified in Column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 shall be exempted development for the purposes of the Act, provided that such development complies with the conditions and limitations specified in Column 2 of the said Part 1 opposite the mention of that class in the said column 1.

Article 9(1)

Development to which article 6 relates shall not be exempted development for the purposes of the Act –

(a) if the carrying our of such development would -

Sub-paragraphs (i) – (xii) (inclusive)

Class 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 (Exempted Development – General) (Development within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse)

The extension of a house, by the construction or erection of an extension (including a conservatory) to the rear of the house or by the conversion for use as part of the house of any garage, store, shed or other similar structure attached to the rear or to the side of the house.

Conditions and Limitations:

- 1(a) Where the house has not been extended previously, the floor area of any such extension shall not exceed 40 square metres.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (a), where the house is terraced or semi-detached, the floor area of any extension above ground level shall not exceed 12 square metres.
- (c) Subject to paragraph (a), where the house is detached, the floor area of any extension above ground level shall not exceed 20 square metres.
- 2(a) Where the house has been extended previously, the floor area of any such extension, taken together with the floor area of any previous extension or extensions constructed or erected after 1 October 1964, including those for which planning permission has been obtained, shall not exceed 40 square metres.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (a), where the house is terraced or semi-detached and has been extended previously, the floor area of any extension above

- ground level taken together with the floor area of any previous extension or extensions above ground level constructed or erected after 1 October 1964, including those for which planning permission has been obtained, shall not exceed 12 square metres.
- (c) Subject to paragraph (a), where the house is detached and has been extended previously, the floor area of any extension above ground level, taken together with the floor area of any previous extension or extensions above ground level constructed or erected after 1 October 1964, including those for which planning permission has been obtained, shall not exceed 20 square metres.
- 3. Any above ground floor extension shall be a distance of not less than 2 metres from any party boundary.
- 4 (a) Where the rear wall of the house does not include a gable, the height of the walls of any such extension shall not exceed the height of the rear wall of the house.
- (b) Where the rear wall of the house includes a gable, the height of the walls of any such extension shall not exceed the height of the side walls of the house.
- (c) The height of the highest part of the roof of any such extension shall not exceed, in the case of a flat roofed extension, the height of the eaves or parapet, as may be appropriate, or, in any other case, shall not exceed the height of the highest part of the roof of the dwelling.
- 5. The construction or erection of any such extension to the rear of the house shall not reduce the area of private open space, reserved exclusively for the use of the occupants of the house, to the rear of the house to less than 25 square metres.
- 6(a) Any window proposed at ground level in any such extension shall not be less than 1 metre from the boundary it faces.
- (b) Any window proposed above ground level in any such extension shall not be less than 11 metres from the boundary it faces.
- (c) Where the house is detached and the floor area of the extension above ground level exceeds 12 square metres, any window proposed at above ground level shall not be less than 11 metres from the boundary it faces.
- 7. The roof of any extension shall not be used as a balcony or roof garden.

4.0 ASSESSMENT

4.1 Is or is not development
The carried out works—including the rear extension, garage conversion, front
porch, 3 loggias, and additional window—fall within the definition of "works"
under Section 2(1) and constitute "development" under Section 3(1).

4.2 Is or is not exempted development The house was derelict and uninhabitable prior to recent renovation, indicating prolonged non-use and likely abandonment of residential use. The initial renovation thus represents a material change in use (resumption of habitation), requiring permission and not qualifying as exempted "maintenance" under Section 4(1)(h).

For the subsequent works: The rear extension $(32.55m^2)$ and garage conversion align with Class 1, Part 1, Schedule 2 (rear/side extensions/conversions, within $40m^2$ limit assuming no prior post-1964 extensions). However, the front porch (Class 5, $\leq 3m^2$), 3 loggias (Class 4, $\leq 10m^2$ each), and additional window do not fully align, as they exceed simple rear/side exemptions and involve cumulative external alterations. Overall, the works on a potentially unlawfully resumed structure do not qualify as exempted

4.3 Works materially affecting external appearance
The front porch, loggias, and new window alter the external facades and add visible
structures, inconsistently impacting the rural character of the original derelict
dwelling and neighbours, disqualifying Section 4(1)(h) exemption

4.4 Restrictions on Exemption

Article 9(1) restrictions apply: Cumulative works affect visual/rural amenity (subpara (v)) and may contravene Donegal CDP rural housing policies (sub-para (vi)). Building on unregularised abandonment engages further non-exemption.

4.5 Appropriate Assessment

Having regard to the location of the site on a rural hillside, isolated from European sites, and the scale/nature of the works, it is considered that the proposal would not be likely to have significant effects on a European site. Screening for Appropriate Assessment is therefore not required.

5.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED THAT A DECLARATION BE MADE THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE REQUEST AS ABOVE –

IS Development

&

IS NOT Exempted Development

WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ABOVE ACT

The proposal:

Retention of works to a recently renovated derelict two-storey dwelling at Ray, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, including rear kitchen extension (32.55m²), garage conversion to utility/loggia 2, front porch (1.8m²), 3 curtilage loggias, and additional first floor window.

The Planning Authority in considering this referral, had regard particularly to:

- a. Sections 2, 3, 4 and 177 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), and
- b. Articles 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), including the restrictions on exemption, and
- c. Relevant case law and previous An Bord Pleanála determinations regarding derelict and long-abandoned dwellings.

And concluded that:

The proposal is development within the meaning of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and **is not exempted development**, as the works to be retained exceed the level of works that could reasonably be regarded as maintenance or improvement, and would materially affect the external appearance of the structure, and would involve the resumption of a residential use that has been abandoned. The works therefore fall outside the scope of exemptions under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

It should be noted that in determining the subject Section 5 referral, regard was had to recent Section 5 applications referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination and the decisions of An Bord Pleanála. The planning authority considers that a full retention application is required to consider the regularisation of the development.

Executive Planner
Development Applications Unit
10/10/2025



Frank Sweeney
Senior Executive Planner
Community Development & Planning Services
10/10/2025

Chief Executive's Order No: 2025PH2949

Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)

SECTION 5:-

Request received 17th September 2025 from Shaun Keeney, C/O Seamus Carr, Studio Move Architects, 20 Revington Park, North Circular Road, Limerick, Co. Limerick, V94 X4EY in relation to retention of renovations to a derelict two storey dwelling at Ray, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, F92 WY48.

SUBMITTED:-

Written request received 17th September 2025 as above and report dated 10th October 2025 from the Executive Planner (Ref. No: S5 25/75 refers).

ORDER:-

Having considered the said request, the report of the Executive Planner, and the record forwarded to the Council by An Coimisiún Pleanála in compliance with Sub-Section 6(c) of the said Section I have concluded that a declaration on the questions in the said request should be made in the terms of that in the Schedule to this Order, the main reasons and considerations therefore being detailed therein. I therefore Order that the declaration issue to the said requester and the owners/occupiers of the land concerned and, further, that it be entered in the Council's Planning Register in compliance with Sub-Section (5) of the said Section.

SEMOR EX. PLANNER

DATED THIS DAY OF OCTOBER 2025

Chief Executive's Order No: 2025PH2949

Ref.No: S5 25/75

SCHEDULE

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE REQUEST AS ABOVE

- **IS** Development
- **IS** Not Exempted Development

WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ABOVE ACT

The Planning Authority in considering this referral, had regard particularly to:

- Sections 2, 3, 4 and 177 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), and
- Articles 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), including the restrictions on exemption

The proposal **IS DEVELOPMENT** within the meaning of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and **IS NOT EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT** as the works to be retained exceed the level of works that could reasonably be regarded as maintenance or improvement, and would materially affect the external appearance of the structure, and would involve the resumption of a residential use that has been abandoned. The works therefore fall outside the scope of exemptions under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

y 10/10



Áras an Chontae, Leifear, Contae Dhún na nGall, F93 Y622

County House, Lifford, County Donegal, F93 Y622 T: 074 91 53900
E: info@donegalcoco.ie
W: www.donegalcoco.ie
W: www.ccdhunnangall.ie

Planning Services

E: planning@donegalcoco.ie

Ref. No: S525/75

10th October 2025

SHAUN KEENEY, C/O SEAMUS CARR, STUDIO MOVE ARCHITECTS, 20 REVINGTON PARK, NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD, LIMERICK, CO. LIMERICK, V94 X4EY

Re: Retention of renovations to a derelict two storey dwelling at Ray, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, F92 WY48.

A Chara,

I refer to your request received on 17th September 2025 under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Same has now been decided and I now issue to you herewith the Council's Declaration thereon. You are now advised that, in accordance with Section 5 (3) (a) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) where a Declaration is issued, any person issued with such a Declaration may, on payment to An Coimisiún Pleanála of such fee as may be prescribed, refer a Declaration for review by An Coimisiún Pleanála within 4 weeks of the date of issuing of the Declaration.

Mise, le meas,

For Senior Ex. Planner Planning Services

/RMcC

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) (Declaration and Referral on Development and Exempted Development)

DECLARATION

Chief Executive's Order No:

2025PH2949

Reference No:

S525/75

Name of Requester:

SHAUN KEENEY, C/O SEAMUS CARR.

STUDIO MOVE ARCHITECTS,

20 REVINGTON PARK, NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD,

LIMERICK, CO. LIMERICK, V94 X4EY

Summarised Description of development the subject matter of request:

Retention of renovations to a derelict two storey dwelling

Location: Ray, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, F92 WY48.

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE REQUEST AS ABOVE

IS Development

IS Not Exempted Development

WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ABOVE ACT

The Planning Authority in considering this referral, had regard particularly to:

- Sections 2, 3, 4 and 177 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), and
- Articles 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), including the restrictions on exemption

The proposal **IS DEVELOPMENT** within the meaning of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and **IS NOT EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT** as the works to be retained exceed the level of works that could reasonably be regarded as maintenance or improvement, and would materially affect the external appearance of the structure, and would involve the resumption of a residential use that has been abandoned. The works therefore fall outside the scope of exemptions under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

For Senior Ex. Planner

Planning Services

Dated this 10th day of October 2025