

SECTION 5 APPLICATION

FOR DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

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

Name of Applicant(s):	ERM Contracts Limited
Agent Name: (if applicable)	Hughes Planning and Development Consultants
Location of Proposed Development / Works: (Townland or postal address as appropriate and Eircode if available)	Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, F92 VKN7
Description of Proposed Development in (Only works listed below will be assessed up	ncluding details of works (where applicable): under <u>this</u> section 5 application)
Whether the use of the hostel accommodation at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, to provide accommodation for persons seeking international protection, constitutes exempted development or does not constitute exempt development?	



Is the development a Protected	Yes	No
Structure or within the curtilage of a Protected Structure?		No
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.		No
Applicant(s) Interest in the site:	Owner	
If not the Owner of the site, please provide the name of the Landowner:		
Please list types of plans, drawings etc. submitted with this application:	OS Map	
Planning History - list any relevant planning application reference numbers:	1350339, 1751616, 2151589	
Are you aware of any enforcement proceedings connected to the site? If so, please supply details:	N/A	

I hereby certify that the information provided is true and accurate	
Signature of Applicant/Agent:	Jeph
Date:	27/01/2025



Additional Contact Information

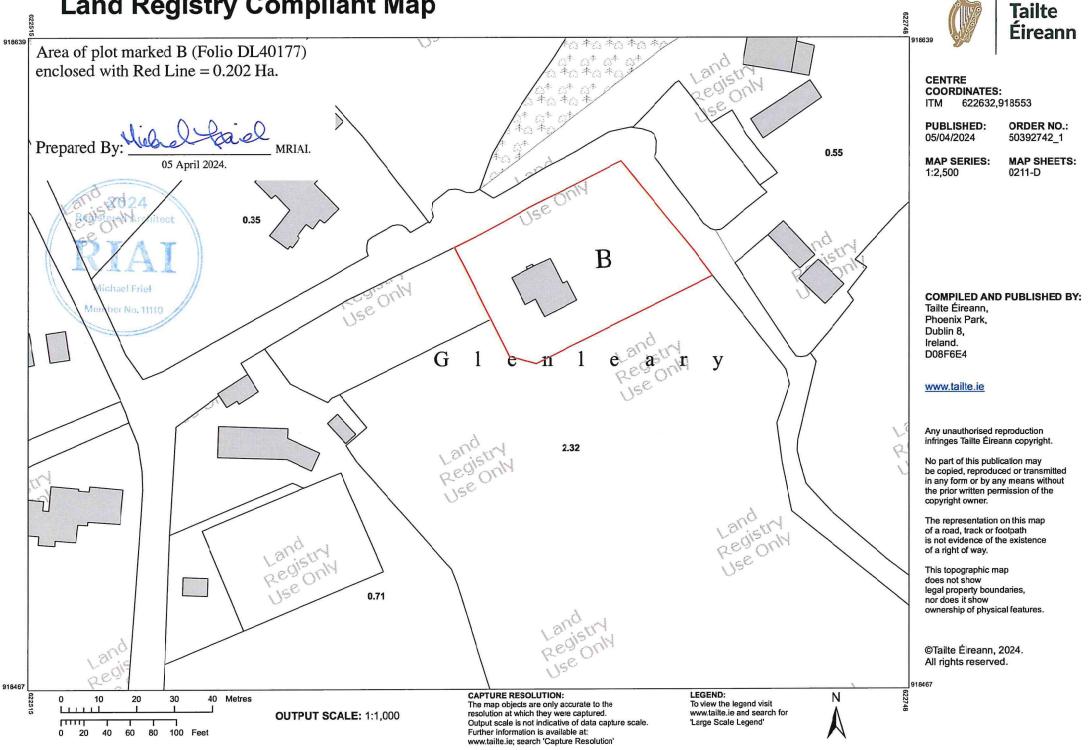
NOT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE WITH APPLICATION



Advice to Applicant

- (a) **Prescribed Fee** €80.00 You may wish to pay the fee by card by ringing the cash office on 074 9153900. Please note the receipt number in your cover email with the form.
- (b) Application must be accompanied by:
 - **Site location map** with site clearly outlined in red (to a scale of not less than 1:1000 in built up areas and 1:2500 in all other areas).
 - **Site layout plan** (Site or layout plans shall be drawn to a scale (which shall be indicated thereon) of not less than 1:500 or such other scale as may be agreed with the planning authority prior to the submission of the application, the site boundary shall be clearly delineated in red).
 - Elevations (if applicable) (plans, elevations and sections drawn to a scale of not less than 1:200).
 - **Other details** (e.g. landowner consent (if applicable), photographs as appropriate).
- (c) Completed application form & supporting documentation to be returned to the Planning Authority **by email** to <u>planning@donegalcoco.ie</u>
- (d) More information on exempted development can be found on the OPR planning leaflets available at <u>https://www.opr.ie/planning-leaflets/</u>

Land Registry Compliant Map



PLANNING REPORT

Section 5 Application – Declaration of Exempted Development

The accommodation for persons seeking international protection at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, F92 VKN7

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

JANURARY 2025

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF: ERM Contracts Limited,





1.0 Introduction

Hughes Planning and Development Consultants, 85 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, have prepared this report to accompany a request for a Declaration pursuant to Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, on behalf of our client, ERM Contracts Limited, concerning Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, F92 VKN7.

The question before the Planning Authority is:

"Whether the use of the hostel accommodation at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, to provide accommodation for persons seeking international protection, constitutes exempted development or does not constitute exempt development?"

We note the term *'Displaced Persons'* under Article 2 of Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022-382 of 4th March 2022 means the following categories of persons displaced from Ukraine on or after 24th February 2022, as a result of the military invasion by Russian armed forced that began on that date:

- (a) Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- (b) Stateless persons, and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, who benefited from international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022; and,
- (c) Family members of the persons referred to in points (a) and (b).

It is further noted that for the purposes of paragraph 1, point (c), the following persons shall be considered to be part of a family, in so far as the family was already present and residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022:

- The spouse of a person referred to above, point (a) or (b), or the unmarried partner in a stable relationship, where the legislation or practice of the Member State concerned treats unmarried couples in a way comparable to married couples under its national law relating to aliens;
- the minor unmarried children of a person referred to above, point (a) or (b), or of his or her spouse, without distinction as to whether they were born in or out wedlock or adopted;
- (iii) Other close relatives who lived together as part of the family unit at the time of the circumstances surrounding the mass influx of displaced persons, and who were wholly or mainly dependent on a person referred to in paragraph 1, point (a) or (b) at the time.

Thereafter, for the purposes of this exemption, 'Displaced Persons' shall be defined based on the above.

We note that the definition of 'international protection' is as follows:

1. 'International protection', for the purpose of this class, has the meaning given to it in section 2(1) of the International Protection Act 2015 (No. 66 of 2015).

Consequently, 'International Protection' is defined under the 2015 Act as:

- a. as a refugee, on the basis of a refugee declaration, or
- b. as a person eligible for subsidiary protection, on the basis of a subsidiary protection declaration;

Thereafter, for the purposes of this exemption, people under international protection shall be defined based on the above.

We would submit, that the use of a hostel as temporary accommodation for displaced persons seeking international protection does not constitute development as no change of use has occurred, nor have any works been carried out to the property.

2.0 Site Description

The subject site is located at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, F92 VKN7. The subject site comprises an existing two-storey residential building which is currently being used as short stay hostel accommodation. The building comprises 4 no. bedrooms. Car parking space is provided at the front of the dwelling, with open amenity space provided at the rear.



Figure 1.0 Aerial image showing the subject site (red marker).

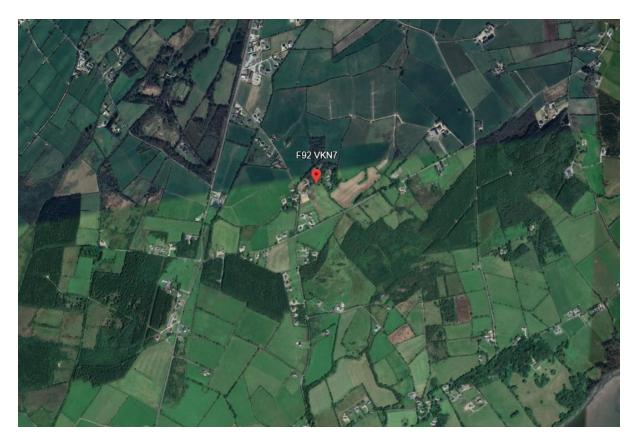


Figure 2.0 Aerial image of the subject site (red marker) in the context of the surrounding environment.

3.0 Planning History

A review of the Donegal County Council Planning register revealed the following planning history within the subject site:

- **Reg. Ref. 1350339** Planning permission granted by Donegal County Council on 2nd May 2013 for the construction of a two-storey residential building for the purposes of short stay accommodation ancillary to the existing riding stables will all associated site works and services. Installation of a sewerage treatment system and sand/soil polishing filter. The development will be accessed via a new entrance located along the existing adjoining laneway. This decision was appealed to An Bord Pleanála, which upheld the decision made by the local authority on the 4th October 2013.
- **Reg. Ref. 1751616** Extension of Duration granted by Donegal County Council on 8th December 2017 for the construction of a two storey residential building for the purposes of short stay accommodation ancillary to the existing riding stables with all associated site works and serviced. Installation of a sewerage treatment system and sand/soil polishing filter. The development will be accessed via a new entrance located along the existing adjoining laneway.
- **Reg. Ref. 2152589** Retention permission granted by Donegal County Council on 14th April 2022 for the vehicular entrance as constructed including all other associated site development works. This decision was appealed to An Bord Pleanála, which upheld the decision made by the local authority on 24th August 2023.

As per the planning permission granted under Reg. Ref. 1350339, hostel accommodation is a permitted use on the subject site.

4.0 Proposed Use

The proposal seeks the change of use from hostel to use as accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers. We note that no works are being sought with regard to this declaration and the determination of the planning authority is only sought in respect of a change of use as set out above under Class 14(h) of Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024.

5.0 Legislative Provisions

In respect of the legislative provisions, we refer to Class 14(h) contained within the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2024 Schedule 2, Article 6, Part 1. We note that Class 14(h) is contained within of S.I. No. 582 of 2015 of the Planning And Development (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2015. We refer to the provisions of exempted development Class 14(h) which states that;

Development consisting of a change of use:

(h) from use as a hotel, motel, **hostel**, guesthouse, holiday accommodation, convent, monastery, Defence Forces barracks or other premises or residential institution providing overnight accommodation, or part thereof, or from the change of use specified in paragraph (i) of the said premises or institution, or part thereof, to use as accommodation for protected persons'

Class 14(h) is inserted by Article 4 of S.I. No. 582/2015 Planning and Development (Amendment)(No. 4) Regulations 2015.

Article 4 of these Regulations inserts 4 new classes of exempted development into the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 ("the Principal Regulations"), which has the effect that the changes of use specified in the new classes are exempted from the requirement to obtain planning permission. The new classes of exempted development are as follows:

'Class 14(h): Change of use of <u>various forms of premises providing residential or overnight</u> <u>accommodation to specific use as accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers</u>, as defined in legislation. This class of exempted development will assist in implementing the Government's Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP), which was established on 10 September 2015 in response to the migration crisis in central and southern Europe.'

As per Class 14(h) as noted above, a variety of premises providing residential or overnight accommodation can be used for the purpose of accommodating refugees and asylum seekers, we confirm that the property to which this Section 5 application relates is a hostel. It is considered the definition of a 'hostel' falls under the umbrella of '*premises providing residential or overnight accommodation*'. On this basis, it is submitted that the subject site can avail of the exemption afforded under Class 14(h).

6.0 Planning Context

6.1 Donegal County Development Plan 2024-2030

The subject site is located within a 'Structurally Weak Rural Area' under the Donegal County Development Plan 2024-2030. The following policy is relevant to this area:

RH-P-4

It is a policy of the council to consider opportunities to deliver necessary social and affordable housing at locations around (i) rural schools and; (ii) rural settlements; subject to wastewater serviced being appropriately delivered and maintained by Donegal County Council as part of a social housing scheme and subject to all other relevant objectives and policies of the plan, including environmental considerations and compliance with the Habitats Directive.

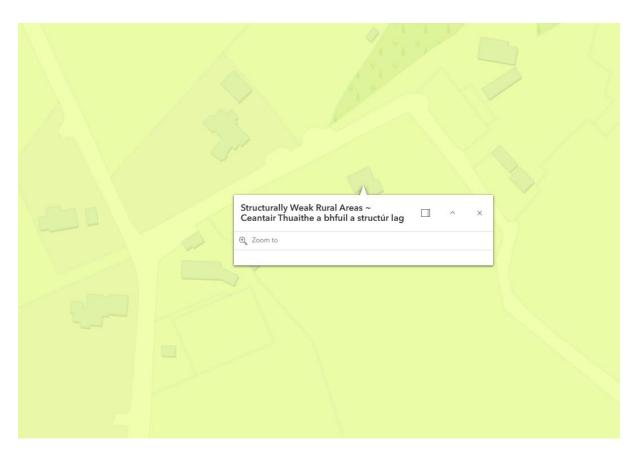


Figure 3.0 Extract from the Donegal County Development Plan 2024-2030, with the subject site indicated by the 'Structurally Weak Rural Areas' label.

		Within Urban Areas	Rural areas (excluding EHSA areas)	Specific Policy Requirements
New-build 'mainstream'	Hotels	~	x	
accommodation	Hotels functionally dependent on, and ancillary to, an existing rural resource (e.g. golf courses)	~	~	In urban areas, developments shall be within safe walking distance of local services and facilities (i.e. via an existing footpath or a footpath required as part of the development)
	Small Hotels/Guesthouses	~	✓ (up to a maximum of 10 bedrooms)	
	Hostels	~	(up to a maximum occupancy of 20 people)	

Figure 4.0 Extract from Table 10.2 Summary of Tourism Accommodation Policies in the Donegal County Development Plan 2024-2030.

This proposal seeks to use the existing building to provide accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers. Hostels are uniquely prepared to house refugees and asylum seekers as they are set up for a temporary, transient population, with cooking and bathroom facilities which provide resources to those arriving in Ireland. We would consider that the exempted use is consistent with the zoning objective, and it is therefore submitted that the proposed use is appropriate for the subject site.

7.0 Conclusion

The subject site at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal. F92 VKN7, is intended to provide accommodation for persons seeking international protection. This facility will not provide care to residents.

Therefore, the question before the planning authority is:

"Whether the use of the hostel accommodation at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, to provide accommodation for persons seeking international protection, constitutes exempted development or does not constitute exempt development?"

As such, we would ask Donegal County Council to make a declaration as to whether the proposed use of the building as outlined in the body of this report is exempt development or does not constitute exempt development at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, F92 VKN7. It is noted that no works are being sought as part of this declaration.

Accordingly, we request a declaration to this effect from Donegal County Council under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Should you have any queries or require any further information including access to the building, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Kevin Hughes (MIPI MRTPI) Director For HPDC Ltd.

Donegal County Council

SECTION 5 REFERRAL REPORT – Ref. No: S5 25/08

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Location:

The subject site is located in Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal.



1.2 Site Description:

The site is located in a 'Structurally Weak Rural Area'. An existing 2 storey residential building used for short stay accommodation for an adjoining equestrian business is located on site.

1.3 Planning History

21/52589 – Conditional - vehicular entrance as constructed including all other associated site development works

17/51616 – Unconditional - construction of a two-storey residential building for the purposes of short stay accommodation ancillary to the existing riding stables with all associated site works and services. Installation of a sewage treatment system and sand/ soil polishing filter. The development will be accessed via a new entrance located along the existing adjoining laneway.

13/50339 – Conditional - construction of a two-storey residential building for the purposes of short stay accommodation ancillary to the existing riding stables with all associated site works and services. Installation of a sewage treatment system and sand/ soil polishing filter. The development will be accessed via a new entrance located along the existing adjoining laneway.

2.0. THE QUESTION

The applicant ERM Contracts Limited, have made a submission to Donegal County Council seeking a Declaration of Exemption under Schedule 2, Part 1 Class 14(h) of the

Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) as to whether or not the following is exempt from planning permission:

Whether the use of the hostel accommodation at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal, to provide accommodation for persons seeking international protection, constitutes exempted development or does not constitute exempt development.

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 defined, 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 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 may be, shall where appropriate, conduct screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with the provisions of this section".

Class 14(H) of Schedule 2, Part 1:

• Permits a change of use "from use as a hotel, motel, hostel, guesthouse, holiday accommodation, convent, monastery, Defence Forces barracks or

other premises or residential institution providing overnight accommodation, or part thereof... to use as accommodation for protected persons."

- Protected persons are defined under the International Protection Act 2015.
- Conditions of exemption include:
 - Compliance with the definition and purpose of "protected persons."
 - No contravention of planning conditions or zoning regulations.

3.0 ASSESSMENT

3.1 Consideration of Proposed Development

1. Existing Use:

 The property currently consists of a residential building used for short stay accommodation for an adjoining equestrian business granted under planning reference 13/50339.

2. Proposed Use:

- The change of use is proposed to accommodate protected persons under Class 14(h).
- Protected persons are defined in Section 2(1) of the International Protection Act 2015.

3. Analysis of Development:

- The proposed change constitutes a material change of use, as it involves altering the nature of occupancy from short stay accommodation for an adjoining equestrian facility to accommodation for protected persons, fulfilling the statutory definition of "development" under Section 3(1) of the Act.
- Permission was granted under application ref. no. 13/50339 for construction of a two storey residential building for the purposes of short stay accommodation and to install a new sewage treatment system and and/soil polishing filter. This provided for 4 no. bedrooms for short stay accommodation in association with an adjoining equestrian facility.
- It is noted that there is outstanding compliance on 4 no. conditions of the parent permission on site.

4. Compliance with Class 14(h) Conditions:

- The proposal aligns with Class 14(h), as the site is already a permitted residential building used for short stay accommodation.
- It is a condition of the parent permission granted under planning reference 13/50339 that the proposed development shall be used for residential purposes only and restricted for use as ancillary residential accommodation for children and adults attending the immediately adjoining equestrian facility. The work proposed therefore materially contravenes condition 2 of the parent permission granted by An Bord Pleanala.
- The use as accommodation for protected persons does not conflict with local zoning or planning policy.

3.2 Appropriate Assessment

• As the development constitutes a change of use without physical works, there is no requirement for an Appropriate Assessment under Section 177U(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

3.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

 No significant environmental impacts arise from this proposed change of use, and the development is not within a class of projects requiring EIA under Schedule 5, Parts 1 and 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

4.0 CONCLUSION

It is considered that:

- 1. The proposed use of the short stay accommodation building for accommodation for protected persons constitutes development under Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- 2. The proposed development is not exempted development under Class 14(h) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), as it does not satisfy the prescribed conditions for exemption.

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 to:

(i) Use the short stay accommodation building as accommodation for protected persons as provided for under Schedule 2, Part 1 Class 14(h) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

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

- Sections 2, 3, 4, and 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
- Articles 6(3), 9(1), and Class 14(H) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- The planning history, current use of the subject site, and Section 5 declarations by An Bord Pleanála.

And concluded that:

The proposal IS DEVELOPMENT and IS NOT EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT, as the development does not fall within the scope of Class 14(h) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Assistant Planner 19/02/2025



Frank Sweeney Senior Executive Planner Community Development & Planning Services 21/02/2025

Chief Executive's Order No: 2025PH0505

Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)

SECTION 5:-	Request received 27th January 2025 from ERM Contracts
	in relation to use of hostel to provide accommodation for persons seeking international protection at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal F92 VKN7
<u>SUBMITTED</u> :-	Written request received 27 th January 2025 as above and report dated 20 th February 2025 from the Assistant Planner (Ref. No: S525/08 refers).
ORDER:-	Having considered the said request, the report of the Assistant Planner, and the record forwarded to the Council by An Bord 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.

quency SENIOR EX. PLANNER

DATED THIS 2 DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025



Chief Executive's Order No: 2025PH0505

Ref.No: S525/08

<u>SCHEDULE</u>

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 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
- Articles 6(3), 9(1), and Class 14(H) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

And concluded that:

The proposal **IS DEVELOPMENT** and **IS NOT EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT**, as the development does not fall within the scope of Class 14(h) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

132/02

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

DECLARATION

Chief Executive's Order No: 2025PH0505

Reference No: S525/08

Name of Requester:

ERM Contracts LTD



Summarised Description of development the subject matter of request:

Use of hostel to provide accommodation for persons seeking international protection

Location: Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal F92 VKN7

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 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
- Articles 6(3), 9(1), and Class 14(H) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

And concluded that:

The proposal **IS DEVELOPMENT** and **IS NOT EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT**, as the development does not fall within the scope of Class 14(h) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

I bar of

For Senior Ex. Planner Planning Services

Dated this 21st day of February 2025



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: S525/08

21st February 2025

ERM Contracts LTD

Re: Use of hostel to provide accommodation for persons seeking international protection at Glenleary, Ramelton, Co. Donegal F92 VKN7

A Chara,

I refer to your request received on 27th January 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 Bord Pleanala of such fee as may be prescribed, refer a Declaration for review by the Board within 4 weeks of the date of issuing of the Declaration.

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y par - a

For Senior Ex. Planner Planning Services /jmcc