

Commission Order ABP-322208-25

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2024

Planning Authority: Donegal County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 3525/14

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the use of residential apartments, where care is not provided, a long-term residential accommodation for protected persons, at Farleigh House, High Road, Letterkenny, County Donegal is or is not development or is or is not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS ERM Contracts Limited care of Hughes Planning and Development Consultants requested a declaration on the said question from Donegal County Council and the said Council issued a declaration on the 7th day of March 2025 stating that the said matter is development and is not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS ERM Contracts Limited referred the declaration for review to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 3rd day of April 2025:

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála, in considering this referral, had regard particularly to —

- (a) Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (b) Article 6(1), article 9(1) and article 10(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (c) Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (d) the planning history of the site,
- (e) the nature and current use of the site,
- (f) the submissions of the Referrer,
- (g) the report of the Planning Inspector:

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála has concluded that the permitted and current use of the premises as self-contained apartments, and not as a facility for the reception and care of protected persons, does not constitute a change of use from the permitted use and, therefore, does not constitute development:

NOW THEREFORE An Coimisiún Pleanála, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 5 (3) (a) of the 2000 Act, hereby decides that the use of the premises at Fairleigh House, High Road, Letterkenny, County Donegal as self-contained residential apartments as a long-term residential accommodation for protected persons where care is not provided, is not development.

Liam McGree

Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate the seal of the Commission.

Dated this of day of AuGust 2025.