

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Waterford City and County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 25/60541

Appeal by the Minister for Education and Youth against the decision made on the 26th day of February, 2026 by Waterford City and County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

Proposed Development: Demolition of 1,152.9-square-metre temporary educational facility consisting of prefabricated single storey buildings, comprising of 14 classrooms, one staff room, administration offices, toilet blocks, vehicular and pedestrian access gates, signage, car park, footpath and astro turf pitch. Demolition of 77 square metres of a temporary creche facility comprising of prefabricated single storey building with outdoor play area. Construction of a new standalone 5,573-square-metre post-primary school. Accommodation provides for two-classroom special education needs unit with all associated facilities, 12 general classrooms, one multimedia room, one music room, one textile room, one design room, one graphics room, two science laboratories with associated preparation room, one engineering room, one construction studies with associated preparation room, one art room with associated project store, one home economics room, one library, one general purpose hall, one staff room, one kitchenette, three SET Rooms, seven administrative rooms, one multi-use hall and associated PE store, one fitness

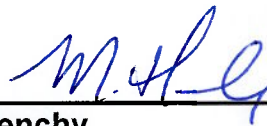
suite, two changing rooms, ancillary accommodation and circulation. Realignment of roadside boundary, reconfiguration of existing entrance egress, construction of a new pedestrian path, cycle path, new entrance access road, front boundary wall with signage, two number gates, a public drop-off area and one number bus stop. Construction of a new internal carriageway, car park with 48 number car park spaces, parent drop-off area, 70 number cycle spaces, four number bus drop-offs, two number special education needs unit drop-offs and new signage above the main building entrance. Construction of an ESB substation, switch room, foul pump station, bio-retention soakway, LPG area, bin store, external store, covered yard, heat pump compound, three ball courts, one Astro turf pitch, all associated ancillary site development, drainage, fencing and landscape works, all at Gaelcholáiste Phort Láirge, Bishops court, Ballygunner, County Waterford.

Decision

Having regard to the nature of the condition the subject of the appeal, the Commission is satisfied that the determination by the Commission of the relevant application as if it had been made to it in the first instance would not be warranted and, based on the reasons and considerations set out below, directs the said Council under subsection (1) of section 139 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to REMOVE condition number 2 and condition number 14 and the reason therefor.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the nature, scale and extent of the proposed development, the applicable zoning objective of 'Community Infrastructure CI', the relevant policies and objectives relating to education, transportation, landscape, and natural heritage assets, as set out in the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028, the terms of the Waterford City and County Development Contribution Scheme 2023-2029, and the manner in which these have been applied, it is considered that condition number 2 and condition number 14 would not be in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the applicable provisions of the Development Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007). Condition number 2 and condition number 14 of the planning authority's grant of permission are not warranted in this regard.



Mary Henchy

Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún

**Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Commission.**

Dated this *22nd* day of *July* 2026.