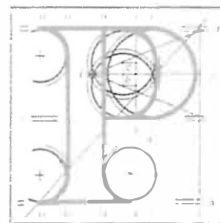


Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25

Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Michelle Keary
69 Monaleen Heights
Castletroy
Co. Limerick

Date: 03 March 2026

Re: Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region
in the counties of Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Kildare, and Dublin.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

The Commission will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála when they have been processed by the Commission.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer

Direct Line: 01-8737184

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Submission Objecting to the Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region –

SHANNON to DUBLIN WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (Ref. PA92.323980)

Applicant: Uisce Éireann

NAME: Michelle Keary

ADDRESS: 69 Monaleen Heights, Castletroy, Co. Limerick

I the above named, formally object to the Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region. The project, as currently proposed, presents unacceptable environmental, social, and economic impacts for local communities, with the perceived benefits overwhelmingly accruing to Dublin, while the local area bears disproportionate risks

1. Environmental Impacts

- The proposed abstraction at the Parteen Basin lies within the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC), threatening critical habitats and protected species, including eels, lampreys, salmon, and trout as well as the habitats of endangered species of water birds.
- Modeling indicates that even under current proposals, Lough Derg and the Parteen Basin could experience dangerously low water levels during drought conditions, risking ecological collapse. Climate change analysis by the ICARUS Institute at Maynooth University have shown that in a short number of years, Ireland and the Mid West could experience increased dry periods during the summer months. This does not mean that there is no rain at all but an insufficient amount to replenish river sources. This would mean that the proposed 2% water abstraction would in fact become a 30% abstraction due to the lowered levels of the river.
- According to a document received from the ESB under Freedom of Information, over the last 10 years, there are on average 20 days per year where the turbines at Ardnacrusha takes Zero and only 10.5 cumecs flow down the Old Shannon. Therefore the pipeline would in fact abstract 33% of this residual flow of 10.5 m³/s.
- Potential impacts on water quality and river resilience are significant, particularly during low flows, which could affect both biodiversity and downstream communities. The development does not adequately safeguard against long-term environmental damage.
- Limerick is already taking 0.6 m³/s from the Parteen basin as well, and this will increase with time as more housing developments are built, therefore there is no surplus for a pipeline. It is simply impossible to simultaneously maintain lake

levels, supply the Old Shannon and Limerick, AND abstract for the pipeline, during dry spells.

- The most recent dry year was 2018, where this scenario lasted for 74 days.i.e in dry spells, hydro power is not abstracting any water, and the residual flow is only just enough to meet the minimum statutory requirement of 10 m³/s for the Old Shannon.
- Lowering of the levels in the River Shannon and Lough Derg pose possibly irreversible environmental degradation, and the mitigation measures proposed by Uisce Eireann are insufficient and non-binding. This entire length of the River Shannon is protected under a directive from the EU called Natura 2000 which makes it illegal for Uisce Eireann to interfere with and cause irreversible damage to the river.
- Local tourism is a vital economic driver for the Shannon region. From Foynes Port and up as far as Lough Derg, will be adversely affected, with potential damage to boating, sailing, and recreational amenities.

It is my well founded belief that there are many other options open to Uisce Eireann to increase water supply in the Dublin region without recourse to damaging the integrity of the River Shannon. There is the Poulaphouca reservoir which is currently under the control of the ESB but is hardly used to generate electricity. This massive reservoir alone would be enough to service Dublin and beyond if the electricity generating aparatus was removed. There are the Slaney, Boyne and Barrow rivers, all of which are far closer to Dublin than the Shannon and with far less disruption to agriculture and habitats.

Finally there is the proposal that Uisce Eireann begin a massive campaign to replace leaky, lead, Victorian pipe work which is currently allowing up to 50% of all expensively treated drinking water simply leak into the ground.

For these reasons I hereby object in the strongest possible terms to the planning application by Uisce Eireann.

Signed: Michelle Keary