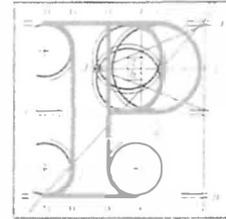


Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25

Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Suzanne Noble
Garraunboy
Killaloe
Co. Clare
V94 425D

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

PA04

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Submission objecting to the proposed water supply project for the Eastern and Midlands Region. Case 323980

Name: Suzanne Noble

Address: Garraunboy, Killaloe, Co. Clare, V94425D

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally express my serious concern regarding the proposed extraction of water from Lough Derg to supply Dublin.

Before any consideration is given to removing water from Lough Derg, there are substantial issues that must be carefully examined and addressed.

There are serious environmental concerns that warrant priority attention. Water levels in Lough Derg are not as high as they were when this proposal was first advanced. In the context of changing weather patterns, prolonged dry periods, and increasing demand pressures, it is vital that current and projected lake levels are fully assessed before any abstraction proceeds. Lower baseline water levels increase the ecological and economic risks associated with further extraction.

The issue of algal blooms in Lough Derg must also be considered. Periodic blooms already affect water quality, aquatic life, and public amenity. Reduced water volumes and altered flow regimes could exacerbate these problems, with negative consequences for biodiversity, drinking water treatment, and public health. There appears to be little provision, if any, within this substantial submission to address the risk of a catastrophic concentration of toxic algae in the lake as a result of reduced water volume in the face of existing levels of agricultural run-off. It may take very little to tip the ecological balance. The recent environmental catastrophe caused by algal blooms in Lough Neagh demonstrates how rapidly such conditions can escalate, with devastating consequences for ecosystems, local communities, and regional economies. That experience should serve as a clear warning of the risks associated with failing to act proactively.

Lough Derg is also a critical resource for tourism and recreation in the region. Boating, angling, hospitality businesses, and water-based activities depend on stable water levels and good water quality. Any abstraction that risks lowering levels or worsening water quality could have significant economic consequences for local communities whose livelihoods rely on the lake.

In addition, there are currently no adequate fish passes in place to allow salmon and other migratory species to return upstream to Lough Derg. Irish Water/Uisce Éireann was requested nearly 20 years ago to install proper fish passage infrastructure, yet this has still not been delivered. Any additional abstraction pressure on the Shannon system without addressing existing ecological barriers would be irresponsible.

It is also a matter of public record that there are numerous legal cases pending against Uisce Éireann relating to pollution of rivers, with proceedings being taken by the Environmental

Protection Agency. These issues must be fully resolved, and demonstrable compliance achieved, before contemplating the extraction of water from another major natural resource.

Beyond these environmental and compliance concerns, there are significant existing infrastructure issues within Dublin that require urgent attention.

Poulaphouca Reservoir in Dublin has a storage capacity of approximately 19 billion litres of water, yet it produces only 0.2% of electricity. Given this limited energy contribution, it is reasonable to question why this substantial resource is not being prioritised and optimised to meet Dublin's water needs before seeking to abstract water from Lough Derg.

Water leakage in Dublin remains at approximately 40%. It is unacceptable that high-quality water from Lough Derg could be extracted, transported across the country, and then lost through an inefficient distribution network. Leakage reduction should be resolved as a matter of urgency before any new abstraction schemes are progressed.

Furthermore, approximately 180,000 houses in South Dublin are still connected via lead service pipes. Lead exposure is a serious public health concern and is associated with significant health risks, including cancer and developmental harm. It is deeply concerning that consideration is being given to major new infrastructure projects while such fundamental public health issues remain unresolved.

In summary, a full reassessment of lake levels, algal bloom risks, tourism impacts, installation of effective fish passes, and resolution of ongoing environmental compliance cases should be prioritised. In addition, optimisation of Poulaphouca Reservoir, leakage reduction, and replacement of lead connections must be addressed. Only once these fundamental matters are satisfactorily resolved should consideration be given to extracting water from Lough Derg.

I respectfully request that these concerns be formally considered as part of the consultation and decision-making process.

Yours faithfully,

Suzanne Noble