

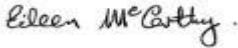
Appendix A.19.4

Údarás na Gaeltachta Correspondence

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			Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
		Name	Varies	Mary Hurley	Eileen McCarthy
		Signature	C Bullock M Hogan		
		Filename			
		Description			
			Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
		Name			
		Signature			
		Filename			
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		Name			
		Signature			

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Údarás na Gaeltachta

18 Márta 2025

A Chara,

Údarás na Gaeltachta wishes to express its strong support for the proposed N6 Ring Road for Galway city, which we consider to be critical infrastructure for the sustainable economic, cultural, and social development of the South Connemara Gaeltacht.

The Galway Gaeltacht is the largest Gaeltacht in the country, with 53,459 residents (Census 2022) – equivalent to 51% of the total Gaeltacht population nationwide. Údarás na Gaeltachta currently supports 302 client companies in the South Connemara Gaeltacht alone, which provide 2,863 full-time jobs. Our 20 largest companies account for 2,260 of these positions, demonstrating their importance as economic anchors for the region.

In 2024, our client companies across the Gaeltacht achieved sales of €1.098 billion – an increase of 4.4% from 2023 and 28% growth over the past decade. Export sales reached €658 million, demonstrating the international scope and potential of these enterprises. However, despite this impressive performance, our client companies in South Connemara operate at a disadvantage due to infrastructure deficiencies.

The current situation is not sustainable:

- The Quincentenary Bridge, the only major transport bridge across the Corrib, is far beyond its designed capacity
- There are persistent traffic delays, which affect business operations
- Travel times between the east side of Galway and South Connemara are excessively long
- The closure of Galway Airport in October 2011 contributed to reduced access to the region
- Access to Ros an Mhíl port, a critical maritime location, is severely constrained

These infrastructure deficiencies now pose a threat to the sustainable development of the Gaeltacht region.

Údarás na Gaeltachta
Na Forbacha, Co. na Gaillimhe
H91 TY22, Éire

T: + 353 (0)91-503100 | eolas@udaras.ie

www.udaras.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann

The development of the N6 Ring Road would deliver multiple strategic benefits:

1. Enhanced Business Competitiveness

- o Improved access to national and international markets for exported products
- o More efficient supply chains for raw materials and finished goods o Better connections to ports, airports, and the national motorway network
- o Expanded labour market, particularly for specialised skills available in eastern Galway
- o New opportunities for business collaboration across the region

2. Innovation and Technology Advancement

- o Support for high-technology companies such as Mylan, Freudenberg Medical, Aran Biomedical, ÉireComposites, and Telegael
- o Enhanced viability of our award-winning companies that have secured funding from the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund
- o Accelerated growth of our gteic digital hub network, which fosters innovation, creativity, and remote working capabilities

3. Marine Economy Development

- o Critical infrastructure support for Páirc na Mara in Cill Chiaráin (70km west of Galway city)
- o Enhanced connectivity for marine innovation services and businesses
- o Improved access to the strategic port at Ros an Mhíl
- o Support for sustainable growth in aquaculture, marine biotechnology, and marine energy

4. Tourism Growth

- o Improved access for the 200,000+ annual visitors to Connemara and Árinn o Support for the Connemara and Árinn Gaelic Coast initiatives
- o Enhanced visitor dispersal across western County Galway
- o Reduction in traffic congestion that currently deters tourists

5. Environmental and Sustainability Benefits

- o Enabling expanded public transport services to South Connemara
- o Reduced carbon emissions through decreased congestion and more efficient journey patterns
- o Supporting population retention in Gaeltacht communities
- o Preserving social and cultural networks that sustain the Irish language

As an organisation mandated to strengthen and preserve Irish as the primary means of communication in Gaeltacht communities, we recognise that economic vitality cannot be separated from cultural sustainability. Our research shows that 58% of those employed in Údarás client companies speak Irish, with particularly strong language usage in the media sector.

The N6 Ring Road is not just transport infrastructure – it is a lifeline that will enable Gaeltacht communities to achieve economic success while maintaining their distinctive cultural identity in the 21st century.

The N6 Ring Road represents essential infrastructure that would fundamentally enhance the viability and attractiveness of the Gaeltacht region in terms of investment, employment, tourism, and quality of life. After careful analysis of its impacts, we are of the firm and considered opinion that the development of this bypass is not simply beneficial but essential for the sustainable future of the Gaeltacht.

Mise le Meas,



Rónán Mac Con Iomaire

Director of Regional, Community Development & Language Planning



Údarás na Gaeltachta

18 Márta 2025

A Chara,

Is mian le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta a thacaíocht láidir a chur in iúl don Chuarbhóthar N6 atá beartaithe do chathair na Gaillimhe, a mheasann muid a bheith mar bhonneagar rithábachtach d'fhorbairt inbhuanaithe eacnamaíoch, chultúrtha agus shóisialta Ghaeltacht Chonamara Theas.

Is í Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe an Ghaeltacht is mó sa tír, le 53,459 áitritheoir (Daonáireamh 2022) – ionann agus 51% de dhaonra iomlán na Gaeltachta ar fud na tíre. Tacaíonn Údarás na Gaeltachta faoi láthair le 302 cliant-chuideachta i nGaeltacht Chonamara Theas amháin, a chuireann 2,863 post lánaimseartha ar fáil. Cuireann ár 20 comhlacht is mó 2,260 de na poist seo ar fáil, rud a léiríonn a thábhachtaí is atá siad mar ancairí eacnamaíocha don réigiún.

In 2024, bhain ár gcliantchomhlachtaí ar fud na Gaeltachta díolacháin de €1.098 billiún amach – méadú 4.4% ó 2023 agus fás 28% thar an deich mbliana anuas. Baineadh amach díolacháin easpórtála de €658 milliún, rud a léiríonn scóip idirnáisiúnta agus acmhainneacht na bhfiontar seo. Mar sin féin, in ainneoin an fheidhmíochta shuntasaigh seo, tá ár gcliantchomhlachtaí i gConamara Theas ag feidhmiú faoi mhíbhuntáiste de bharr easnaimh infreastruchtúir.

Níl an staid reatha inbhuanaithe:

- Tá Droichead na gCúig Céad, an t-aon mhór-dhroichead iompair trasna na Coiribe, i bhfad thar a acmhainn deartha
- Bíonn moilleanna leanúnacha ar thrácht, rud a chuireann isteach ar oibríochtaí gnó
- Tá amanna aistir idir an taobh thoir de Ghaillimh agus Conamara Theas ró-fhada agus
- Chuir dúnadh Aerfort na Gaillimhe i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2011 le heaspa rochtain chuig an réigiún
- Tá rochtain ar chalafort Ros an Mhíl, láthair farraige rithábachtach, srianta go mór

Is bagairt d'fhorbairt inbhuanaithe an réigiúin Ghaeltachta iad na heasnaimh bonneagair seo faoin tráth seo.

Údarás na Gaeltachta
Na Forbacha, Co. na Gaillimhe
H91 TY22, Éire

T: + 353 (0)91-503100 | eolas@udas.ie

www.udas.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann

Dhéanfaidh forbairt an Chuarbhóthair N6 buntáistí straitéiseacha iomadúla a sheachadadh:

1. Iomaíochas Gnó Feabhsaithe

- o Rochtain fheabhsaithe ar mhargaí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta do tháirgí onnmhairithe
- o Slabhraí soláthair níos éifeachtaí do amhábhair agus earraí críochnaithe
- o Naisc níos fearr le calafoirt, aerfoirt, agus an gréasán mótarbhealaí náisiúnta
- o Margadh saothair leathnaithe, go háirithe do scileanna speisialaithe atá ar fáil i nGaillimh thoir
- o Deiseanna nua do chomhoibriú gnó ar fud an réigiúin

2. Nuálaíocht agus Dul Chun Cinn Teicneolaíochta

- o Tacaíocht do chomhlachtaí ardteicneolaíochta ar nós Mylan, Freudenberg Medical, Aran Biomedical, ÉireComposites, agus Telegael
- o Inmharthanacht fheabhsaithe dár gcuideachtaí a bhfuil gradaim buaite acu a fuair tacaíocht ón gCiste Nuálaíochta um Theicneolaíochtaí Bunathraitheacha
- o Fás luathaithe ar ár ngréasán mol digiteach gteic, a chothaíonn nuálaíocht, cruthaitheacht, agus cumas cianoibre

3. Forbairt Gheilleagar na Mara

- o Tacaíocht bhonneagair rithábhachtach do Pháirc na Mara i gCill Chiaráin (70km siar ó chathair na Gaillimhe)
- o Nascacht fheabhsaithe do sheirbhísí nuálaíochta mara agus gnólachtaí
- o Rochtain fheabhsaithe ar an gcalafoirt straitéiseach ag Ros an Mhíl
- o Tacaíocht d'fhás inbhuanaithe san dobharshaothrú, biteicneolaíocht mhara, agus fuinneamh mara

4. Fás Turasóireachta

- o Rochtain fheabhsaithe do na 200,000+ cuairteoir bliantúil ar Chonamara agus Árann
- o Tacaíocht do thionscnaimh Chósta Gaeleagh Chonamara agus Árann
- o Scaipeadh feabhsaithe cuairteoirí ar fud iarthar Chontae na Gaillimhe
- o Laghdú ar phlódú tráchta a chuireann turasóirí ó chuairt a thabhairt faoi láthair

5. Buntáistí Comhshaoil agus Inbhuanaitheachta

- o Seirbhísí iompair phoiblí leathnaithe a chumasú go Conamara Theas
- o Astaíochtaí carbóin laghdaithe trí phlódú laghdaithe agus patrúin aistir níos éifeachtaí
- o Tacú le coinneáil an daonra i bpobail Ghaeltachta

- o Líonraí sóisialta agus cultúrtha a chaomhnú a thacaíonn leis an nGaeilge

Mar eagraíocht a bhfuil sainordú aici an Ghaeilge a neartú agus a chaomhnú mar phríomhmheán cumarsáide i bpobail Gaeltachta, aithníonn muid nach féidir beocht eacnamaíoch a scaradh ó inbhuanaitheacht chultúrtha. Léiríonn ár dtaighde go labhraíonn 58% díobh siúd atá fostaithe i gcliant-chuideachtaí Údaráis Gaeilge, agus tá úsáid na teanga san earnáil na meán an-láidir ar fad.

Níl infreastruchtúr iompair amháin é Cuarbhóthar an N6 – is líne saoil é a chuirfidh ar chumas phobail na Gaeltachta rath eacnamaíoch a bhaint amach agus a bhféiniúlacht chultúrtha shainiúil a choinneáil sa 21ú haois.

Is éard atá sa Chuarbhóthar N6 ná bonneagar riachtanach a chuirfeadh go bunúsach le hinmharthanacht agus tarraingteacht réigiún na Gaeltachta ó thaobh infheistíochta, fostaíochta, turasóireachta, agus cáilíocht na beatha de. Tar éis anailís chúramach a dhéanamh ar a thionchair, táimid den tuairim láidir, mheáite nach bhfuil i bhforbairt an chuarbhóthair seo díreach tairbheach ach riachtanach do thodhchaí inbhuanaithe na Gaeltachta.

Is mise le meas,



Rónán Mac Con Iomaire

Stiúrthóir Forbartha Réigiúnaí, Pobail & Pleanála Teanga Údarás na Gaeltachta

21 Nollaig 2017

John Cronin
John Cronin & Associates
3 Westpoint Business Park
Link Road
Ballincollig
Co. Cork

Re: **Access to the West: N6**

John, a chara,

Údarás na Gaeltachta are in favour of developing a road to give more efficient access to the Gaeltacht area and the Connemara area west of the city.

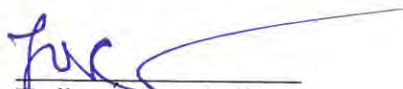
A new road bypassing Galway City and linking up to the N6 would have a very beneficial effect on:

- 1) Attracting new industries to the Gaeltacht and Connemara area
- 2) Encouraging the existing business to expand
- 3) Support existing businesses to have more efficient access to their markets & personnel.
- 4) Attract employees with new skills because commuting time would be reduced.
- 5) Enhance the potential to develop Ros a'Mhíl harbour.
- 6) Attract more tourists, who want to get to the islands and the Connemara landscape and avoid going through the city.

Hope these points enhance the case you are making.

If I can be of any further assistance please contact me.

Mise, le meas,


Tadhg Ó Conghaile

Stiúrthóir Forbartha Réigiúnach Pobail & Pleanála Teanga



OIFIGÍ RÉIGIÚNACHA

Páirc Ghnó Ghaorth Dobhair,
Doiri Beaga,
Co. Dhún na nGall
F92 E09T

Páirc Ghnó an Daingin,
Baile an Mhuilinn,
Daingean Uí Chúis,
Co. Chiarraí
V92 TX48

Áislann Bhéal an Mhuirthead,
Bóthar an tSéipéil,
Béal an Mhuirthead,
Co. Mhaigh Eo
F26 W5H0

Páirc Ghnó Bhaile Mhic Íre,
Baile Mhic Íre,
Co. Chorcaí
P12 E277