

An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**AN BORD PLEANÁLA**  
LDG- \_\_\_\_\_  
ABP- \_\_\_\_\_  
21 DEC 2018  
Fee: € 50 Type: obs  
Name: [illegible] By: [illegible]  
**Planning Submission /  
Observation Check List**

1. The submission / observation must be in writing (e.g. not made by electronic means).

2. State the

name of the observer  
(not care of agent)

Irish Hotels Federation

address of the  
observer  
(not care of agent)

13 Northbrook Road  
Ranelagh  
Dublin 6  
D06 PK18

3. If an agent is involved, state the

name of the agent

n/a

address of the agent

n/a

4. State the Subject Matter of the Submission / Observation

Brief description of the development

Development of the N6 Galway City Ring Road

Location of the development

Galway City and County

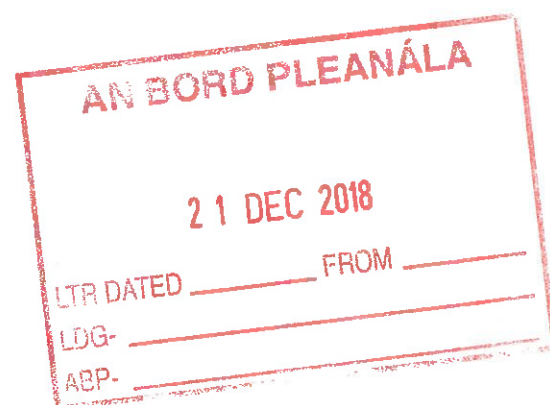
Name of planning authority

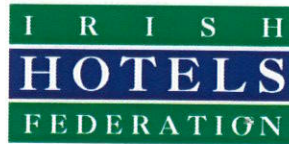
Galway County Council

An Bord Pleanála case reference

PL07 .302885

5. Submission enclosed.
6. Cheque for €50 fee enclosed for submission.





The Secretary  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1, D01 V902

21st December 2018

**RE: An Bord Pleanála case reference PL07 .302885**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing on behalf of the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF) to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála in support of the proposed development of the N6 Galway City Ring Road (Case type: Local Authority road scheme; application by Galway County Council; An Bord Pleanála case reference PL07 .302885). We enclose a cheque payable to An Bord Pleanála in respect of the €50 submission fee.

#### **Background**

The IHF, founded in 1937, is the national representative organisation of the hotel and guesthouse sector in Ireland, representing the interests of over 1,000 businesses. As a key stakeholder in Irish tourism, we work with our industry partners to ensure the right conditions are in place for the sustainable long-term development of tourism, thereby contributing to economic growth and employment creation throughout the country.

Tourism is one of Ireland's largest indigenous industries and is essential for the country's economic well-being, employing more than 260,000 people. In 2017, tourism generated total revenues of €8.84 billion for the economy, made up of €1.88 billion in domestic tourism revenue and €6.96 billion in foreign exchange earnings and carrier receipts. Overall, tourism accounts for 4% GNP. It contributed an estimated €2 billion in taxes to the exchequer last year.

Galway City is the largest urban centre in the West and plays a major role in supporting the region's tourism industry and wider economy. Galway tourism has grown steadily over recent years. In 2017, the City and County attracted 1.67 million overseas visitors and 1.02 million tourists from the island of Ireland, generating €836 million in revenues. It now supports employment for over 21,000 people.

The success of Galway's tourism industry is underpinned by some 100 hotels and guesthouses throughout the City and County which provide over 4,800 bedrooms with 12,000 bed spaces for guests. Like other tourism businesses, they are heavily reliant on having an effective transportation infrastructure in place to remain competitive and attract visitors to the region. This is an essential requirement if Galway is to live up to its full potential as a driver of continued economic growth, development and prosperity.

#### **Observations in Support of the Proposed Development**

The IHF supports the proposed development of the N6 Galway City Ring Road around Galway City as a very beneficial and much-needed investment in the region's transportation infrastructure as part of the Galway Transport Strategy prepared by Galway City Council and Galway County Council in partnership with the National Transport Authority.

The project will help address a number of serious transport issues currently faced by Galway City and the wider environs which are severely inhibiting development and growth. It is an important step towards developing a sustainable integrated transport solution to accommodate existing and future travel demand. In line with Galway City Council Development Plan 2017-2023, we believe this will facilitate the further growth of Galway in 'an integrated, sustainable manner that aligns transport investment with settlement patterns, travel movements and also supports a sustainable use of land.'

The benefits of the project should also be considered in the context of the National Planning Framework (NPF) 'Project Ireland 2040' which stresses the importance of regional cities such as Galway growing by at least 50 per cent to counter-balance the Greater Dublin Area's dominance of economic activity. As outlined in NPF, the population of Galway is projected to grow by 50-60 per cent by 2040 – representing an increase of up to 45,000 people in Galway City alone. This population increase will require development of an effective transportation infrastructure that can support the expanding role envisaged for the City as a tourism centre and economic engine of the West.

The IHF welcomes the objectives of the project which are linked to European, national, regional and local policies as set out in the proposal. The development will help deliver on Galway's potential as Ireland's fourth largest city and an important residential, educational, employment and service centre for a wide regional hinterland. The development recognises the role of Galway City as a gateway to the West and Connemara, and the consequent socio-economic benefits of enhanced connectivity of Galway City to national markets, enhanced tourism accessibility, and the national transport system.

In particular, we welcome the following objectives set out for the project in an economic and tourism development context:

- Reducing journey times and increasing certainty around journey times
- Encouraging local, regional, national and international development
- Supporting the economic performance of the Gateway of Galway
- Improving accessibility to Galway City and improving connectivity to the Gateway of Galway
- Improving linkages between the west and east sides of the city and county
- Integration of Galway City and its environs (including western parts of Galway County) into the national economic development agenda
- Interconnection of the City and its environs road network to the national motorway network
- Improving accessibility of the Gaeltacht areas to the remainder of the county and country
- Improving urban environment of Galway City centre
- Recognition of the role of Galway City as a gateway to the west and Connemara
- Supporting the improvement of the public transport hub linking Galway to other Gateways
- Supporting balanced social and economic development at national and city-region levels
- Improving opportunities for walking in the core city centre area
- Reallocation of road space for the provision of additional cycling facilities
- Delivering a cost effective project
- Improving the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to ensure connectivity of the west of Ireland to the single European market.

Given the vital importance of the proposed project to the future development of Galway's tourism industry and wider economy, the IHF asks that the An Bórd Pleanála approve the proposal for the N6 Galway City Ring Road.

Yours Sincerely,



Rory Fitzpatrick  
Chair, IHF Galway Branch

