



CHARLIE FLANAGAN TD

Minister for Justice & Equality



1 April 2019

Mr Jim Conway, Director
Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
Ballymun Civic Centre
Ballymun
Dublin

EASTERN & MIDLAND
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
03 APR 2019

Re: Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

Dear Mr Conway,

I wish to make a submission in respect of the 'Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy' as published by the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly in March 2019.


I am pleased to see proposed RPO (No. 60) for Portlaoise which states 'Support the development and expansion of the Midlands Regional Hospital to be a centre of excellence for Portlaoise and its catchment area' as a Regional Policy Objective for 2019-2031.

I would like to support this objective fully and I would be pleased to see it included in the final report. Portlaoise has experienced significant population growth in recent years, however this population expansion has not kept pace with the level of investment in the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise. At present, 24/7 A&E services are under threat and there is a need for more staffing resources in the hospital to fully retain all services and generate further investment in the hospital.

It would help promote this objective for RPO 60 to be included in the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy, as a regional policy in this regard and I wish to support this proposed amendment.

Kind Regards.

Yours sincerely,


CHARLIE FLANAGAN TD
Minister for Justice and Equality



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