



Keep Ireland Open

Keep Ireland Open is dedicated to the preservation of access to our heritage of open mountains and countryside

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To the Housing, Local Government and Heritage Committee of the Oireachtas
12th March 2023

A Chara.

We would be pleased if you would accept a supplementary submission to the draft Planning and Development Bill 2022 in addition to that Keep Ireland Open (KIO) sent on 23 February.

KIO has identified an important issue that may have been an oversight of those drafting the bill. It refers to Section 51 (2) (g) Page 122 .

An amendment to the 2000 Planning Act, passed in July 2010, placed a legal obligation on a planning authority to include objectives for the preservation of public rights of way (PROWs) in development plans - "both by marking them on at least one of the maps forming part of the development plan and by indicating their location on a list appended to the development plan" - Section 10 (2) (o) Page 13.

In the draft planning bill - Section 51 (2) (g) Page 122 - this obligation has been reduced to an option in a "development management statement" that **MAY** include objectives for "preserving a specific public right of way."

It is imperative that the legal obligation to include an inventory of PROWs in development plans remains in the new legislation and that enforcement powers are the responsibility of some body, probably the Office of the Planning Regulator.

As drafted, the bill would be a considerable diminution of current planning controls and would be contrary to avowed government policy to incentivise active outdoor recreation.

END

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