



Forward/Strategic Planning,
Economic Development Directorate,
Limerick City and County Council,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

Our Ref: 210813
Your Ref: N/A

18th August 2022

Re: Draft direction in the pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to lands at Ballysimon House, Commons Road, Ballysimon, Limerick.

Dear Sir/Madam,

MKO have been appointed by Mr. David Fitzgerald and Family to prepare and lodge a submission in response to the draft direction pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) issued by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to Limerick City and County Council on the 28th of July 2022. This submission specially relates to section 2(b) of the draft direction, which states the following:

'(b) Delete the Data Centre zoning objective on lands consisting of 33 hectares at Ballysimon.'

This submission illustrates the benefits of retaining the current data centre zoning objective for the lands at Ballysimon under the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, which came into effect on the 29th of July 2022.

Data centres play an integral role in advancing both Ireland and Limerick's digital economy. The presence of a data centre in Limerick would portray an image of innovation and digitalisation. This would contribute to the Development Plan's vision, as stated under section 5.8.1, for Limerick to become a *'major economic force in the Irish and International economy'*

Location

The lands at Ballysimon are ideally located for a new Data Centre. They are located in close proximity to a primary road network, adjacent to the Limerick-Dublin Motorway (M7), along with the existing employment area of Ballysimon. The site has a relatively flat topography and has no known ecological, flooding or archaeological constraints. The site is also located close to a natural aquifer, suitable for a data centre's water requirements.

Existing Electricity Infrastructure

The site is also most ideally positioned to connect to the grid with minimal need for new electricity infrastructure. 110kV powerlines run across the site and connect to a 220kV power station on an adjacent site.



Given the suitability of the lands at Ballysimon, and the national and local economic importance of the data centre developments, the removal of the specific zoning objective would be short-sighted in terms of the development of Limerick's economic.

It is on these grounds that we respectfully request for Limerick City and County Council to retain the data centre (zoning) objective on lands consisting of 33 hectares at Ballysimon.

Yours sincerely,



Colm Ryan

MKO

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