

An Comhchoiste um Nithe a bhaineann le Míchumas

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Ref: JCDM-i1616

Secretary General
First Revision to the National Planning Framework Consultation,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0.

12 September 2024

Re: Public Consultation on Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework 2024

Dear Secretary General,

I am directed by Mr Michael Moynihan, T.D., Cathaoirleach, Joint Committee on Disability Matters, to forward a copy of the Committee's submission 'Contribution to the Public Consultation on the Review of Draft Revision of the National Planning Framework 2024'. The Committee welcomes this public consultation on the Draft First Revision of the NFP and is making this contribution as a general submission and comment on the review.

The Committee believes that the National Planning Framework (NPF) must have persons with disabilities at the centre and ensure that inclusive development and growth is prioritised in line with the vision outlined in the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and the UNCRPD. The Committee therefore recommends that priorities and strategic objectives in the NPF are effectively aligned with the UNCRPD and the SDGs.

Participation of persons with disabilities, across all groups, in all stages of the policy experience is pivotal to the UNCRPD. The needs of persons with disabilities, across all groups must be taken into consideration when designing, implementing, and monitoring policies, legislation and funding programmes through targeted action and mainstreaming.

The Committee believe meaningfully consultation with people with disabilities and their representative organisations, regarding decisions that affect their lives must be undertaken. This is crucial in the design of policies, programmes and in the planning process. Meaningful consultation, which is the heart of the UNCRPD, ensures that the barriers that people with disability experience can be accommodated at design stage and this supports the delivery of accessible services and accessible environments. This level of consultation must occur across all sectors to ensure meaningful inclusion in our communities.

The Committee published two reports – <u>Ensuring Independent Living and the UNCRPD</u> and <u>Towards Harmoisation of National Legislation with the UNCRPD</u> which are relevant for consideration as part of your consultation process.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Mairead O' Donovan by [telephone 01-618 3575] or by email at <u>disabilitymatters@oireachtas.ie</u>

Yours sincerely

Mairead O'Donovan

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Clerk to the Joint Committee on Disability Matters