

8th October 2017

Re: National Planning Framework

Dear Minister,

In refer to the above matter and particularly to the omission of any reference to the Technological University by the Connacht Ulster Alliance (GMIT, IT Sligo and LYIT) in the latest drafts. I understand that it was included previously.

As you know, investment in the regions is a main plank of this Government's programme. A Technological University along the West Coast, in conjunction with the Atlantic Economic Corridor, is absolutely vital to making the corridor a working reality. The economies of scale such a University would provide would vastly improve the third level offerings in the region and undoubtedly add to its attractiveness as a place to do business.

Additionally, work on the Connacht Ulster Alliance is, I am informed, far more advanced than the proposed project in the South East.

The President's of the various Institutes of Technology are extremely concerned, as am I, that any reference to the Alliance was removed in the latest draft.

I would be obliged if you could consider the matter with a view to reinstating the project in the final draft.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Hildegarde Naughton, T.D.

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