

From: Roy Mortimer [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2017 18:43
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040

To whom it may concern,

I have worked in the west of Ireland for nearly 12 years and live with my husband who has been here since the 90's. Prior to this I lived and worked in the UK fulltime for 30 years from the age of seventeen. My husband is English and would not return to the U.K so I had to make the move and I managed to get a job after 4 months of searching in Sligo which is an hours drive from our house using the N5 ,N17 and N4 which for this corner of Ireland are reasonably good roads but for companies that need good road links for container lorries are poor .Between Curry and Ballinacarrow there is no hard shoulder and no dual carriageway and places to overtake slow moving vehicles are few and far between.

My second point is to do with communications. On local radio I heard a lady , who has a business in Belcarra, telling how there was a big thing made of high speed broadband rollout in the village and when it was put in only a few houses and the school got it but her house was not one because it was a hundred metres from the connection. We have a package with Vodafone which includes the landline and broadband but it will never be high speed because we live in the country out of the town and our distance from the telephone exchange means it will never be any faster than it is now. Another reason why few companies will venture to locate over this side of Ireland.

I heard a comment from a TD on the radio who said that there is not the population in the Mid and North West to warrant the upgrade of some of our N roads to M roads. The population is not here because most of the new jobs coming to Ireland are ending up in Dublin thus over crowding the city and forcing the ever spiralling rents upwards.

So my hope for Ireland 2040 is that the infrastructure would be put in place here in the Mid and North West to encourage companies to look outside of Dublin and Cork and thus encourage a more even distribution of the population.

To conclude, Just a little quote from a Kevin Costner film called Field of Dreams, ' **build it and they will come**'

kind regards,
Julie Mortimer