

NPF Submissions,
Forward Planning Section,
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin D01 W6X0

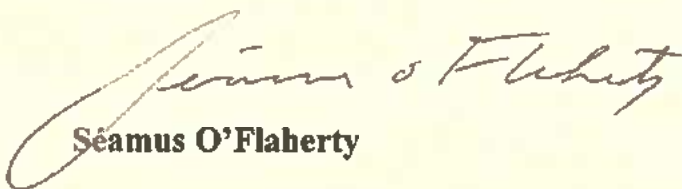
A chairde,

I am a part of the Galway skateboarding community currently calling upon Galway City Council to upgrade existing outdated and unsafe skateparks around the city.

I would like to make a submission to the *Ireland 2040* plan to consider allocating funding to upgrade/rebuild these facilities (and future skateparks) from 'modular' types to 'in situ' concrete, as done in other counties such as Westport skatepark on the Wild Atlantic Way, Athlone skatepark, and the recently announced Ballyfermot skatepark. Also, I would like to see the Government make it a policy to consult skateboarders when developments of public parks/recreational areas are being discussed while working together with architects and city planners. This should be a replication of Malmö in Sweden, and Copenhagen in Denmark, where they have embraced skateboarding and made it a part of the city's fabric.

Thank you for reviewing my submission, let's hope we have Irish skateboarding athletes in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics because their public representatives did away with outdated ideas about skateparks, and seen the potential for creative, well-built skateparks for future athletes around Ireland.

Le Meas,



Seamus O'Flaherty