



24 February 2017

National Planning Framework,  
C/O Department of Housing, Community and Local Government,  
Custom House,  
Dublin 1.

**Re: Submission regarding National Planning Framework.**

Dear Sir/Madam

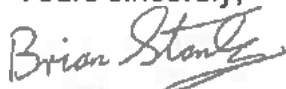
I am making a submission regarding County Laois being left out of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and which I am requesting be considered as part of the process of putting in place a much needed National Planning Framework.

From the information available to date, Laois has been completely left out of the process and none of the towns have been considered as a centre for development and growth. I feel this is the wrong approach if we are to have balanced regional development and reverse the situation that has developed of having a congested capital and the regions being left behind. County Laois needs to be included in any new National Planning Framework NPF and I would ask you to take the following points into consideration:

- Laois is in a strategic location with regard to the road networks, the M7 and M8 Motorways connecting and the N77 and N80 Regional Roads all run through the County.
- The County town is less than an hour from Dublin and one and half hours from the Port of Rosslare by road.
- There is an excellent rail network with three stations and direct connections to Dublin, Limerick and Cork.
- The MANS Broadband System is installed in Portlaoise and broadband coverage is being upgraded in the rest of the County.
- Laois now has excellent facilities in terms for leisure and recreational use.

I am requesting that these factors be considered when the NPF is being compiled and that County Laois is not completely ignored again as it was in The National Spatial Strategy 14 years ago.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Stanley T.D.