

Dear Sir

I wish to make the following response to the consultation re the above Bill. I totally oppose the Bill as I believe it would not benefit the people, economy or environment of Northern Ireland and should not become law.

My principal reasons for opposing the Bill are:

1. It is not necessary as economic development is already one of the important factors taken into account when assessing planning proposals.
2. There is a contradiction between the primacy of economic factors and the responsibility to encourage and protect sustainable development. If economic development is given precedence this would have disastrous consequences for Northern Ireland's vulnerable natural environment and the health and wealth of our people.
3. The economic value of a proposed development is impossible to accurately assess.
4. There would be no way of monitoring and enforcing compliance with the economic conditions of planning approval.
5. It is inappropriate to introduce such devastating change to the planning system in this manner without a full public consultation.

I would urge the committee to support a policy of sustainable development as defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development 1987: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", ie a policy that includes the principles of resource conservation, environmental and inter-generational justice, the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle and meaningful public consultation.

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