

Sinn Féin TD

AN BORD PLEAN	
TIME	BY Harold
25 APR 2016	
SR DATED	FROM
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## Presentation to Oral Hearing re. PA 0045

Thank you for the opportunity to expand, explain and clarify my objection to the proposed development for a Waste to Energy Facility on a site in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork by Indáver Ireland Ltd (Strategic Infrastructure Development Application, Case No. PA0045.)

This objection is made at a personal level as a resident of Cork and potential user of the proposed amenities planned for the area within the immediate environs of the proposed development, as well as a local political representative on behalf of the people of Cork for over 15 years as a County Councillor, TD and most recently as Minister for Marine and Minister for Defence, having regard to the multi-millions spent in developing NMCI, the Beaufort and IMERC campus and the various State funded planned expansion of tourism and educational facilities at this location.

While I appreciate and endorse government policy and the sustainable planning arguments supporting the use of 'waste to energy' facilities as a means of disposing of our waste (which cannot be avoided or recycled), and while such uses are certainly open for consideration on sites such as that at Ringaskiddy, I believe fundamentally this is the wrong location for such a large commercial waste management facility.

I hold this view for a number of reasons, which I will briefly outline.

As outlined in my submission to the Board,

- This part of Cork Harbour has effectively become a new zone for education, research, innovation, clean technology and business development. There are 48 companies currently working in the newly opened Beaufort laboratory, developing and testing renewable ocean energy solutions. The next phase of development, which is already committed to with full permission, is a marine leisure / tourism investment programme. Haulbowline and Spike are being transformed for the better. The beach adjacent to the Indaver site and the new footpaths and lighting recently completed are proof of the changed environment.

It simply cannot be consistent with good planning, or existing planning guidelines relating to incineration, to permit the construction of a 240,000 tonne waste to energy facility in the immediate vicinity of the most progressive cluster of projects that Cork Harbour has seen in decades.

I would urge the Board to consider what has happened, what is underway and what is planned for the heart of Cork Harbour and the positive impact of that State backed and prepared plan on the broader population and region. When making a decision on the Indaver application the broader interests of the harbour area can surely not be ignored given how strategic the location of the site is.

In addition, to the points I have presented as a public representative on behalf of local constituents and having regard to the national perspective which requires me to seek and ensure that government funding and investment is protected and not compromised by inappropriate development

those outside the site, and elsewhere in the general area.

- I also would suggest that greater attention should have been given to cumulative impacts, in particular around traffic and intensity and natures of uses in this area. I believe the cumulative impact is exacerbated by the fact that the users of the proposed development and those wishing to enjoy the amenities and educational facilities in this immediate area and sharing the same access routes (including families, students, tourists, etc.) are not compatible and conflict with each other.

In summary I would urge the Board to reflect - Strategic and broad national support for Waste to Energy development, cannot and should not trump the overwhelming adverse local impacts of such a development.

I look forward to a detailed and fair oral hearing to develop these points further.

Yours sincerely,

**Simon Coveney. TD**

21 April 2016

Mr. Simon Coveney T.D.  
Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, and Defence

Decision to Issue a Direction under Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as Amended) to Cork County Council.

Dear Simon,

I am writing to you in connection with the Ministerial Direction which I issued to Cork County Council in March 2015. Firstly, let me explain that as Minister, I have a statutory role in the development plan making functions of local authorities, in upholding relevant national policies both relating to the Department's functions and of a wider Government relevance as well.

My Department reviews all statutory plans such as County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and amendments to both. In the region of 60-80 documents are examined each year.

Where significant policy departures occur, I am informed, and as Minister, I may, under Section 31 of the Planning Act, direct local authorities to take such steps as to align with nationally determined legislative and policy requirements.

As regards the Cork County Development 2014 plan, a written submission on the draft plan was made to Cork County Council on my behalf in February 2014, which outlined that the proposed variation concerning the Planning Authority's policy framework for waste would be significantly inconsistent with the Government's waste policy, A Resource Opportunity - Waste Management Policy in Ireland.

This policy framework above sets out the actions through which Ireland will make the further progress necessary to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste. The policy contains measures to ensure that prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery are favoured to the disposal of waste and outlines measures to encourage the development of alternatives to landfill including a landfill levy of €75 per tonne and regulations which require the diversion from landfill of food waste arising on specified premises.

It is this policy approach, consistent with the waste hierarchy as set out in the EU Waste Framework Directive, rather than determination in favour of or against any particular process or technology, that must guide the necessary process of infrastructural diversification, which can be expected to involve the deployment of a variety of technologies and treatment processes across a network of facilities.

In this context, the County Cork Development Plan Objective ZU 3 was considered to undermine and run counter to settled Government policy by imposing restrictions in an inconsistent and ambiguous manner.

It was because of the above ambiguity and the fact that the objective was open to

interpretation, that it was considered that Objective ZU 3-7 was unduly restrictive in the consideration of contract incineration facilities in Cork.

While a restriction on waste disposal (through landfill) could be seen to be consistent with the objectives set out in A Resource Opportunity, any prohibition on energy recovery through incineration would be out of step with the waste hierarchy and therefore with national waste policy.

The decision by the Cork County Council Members was therefore not in compliance with the requirements of s.9, s.10 and s.12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which restrict them to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of their areas and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or any Minister of the Government.

I trust the above clarifies for you that the direction I issued did not relate to a particular site but instead was aimed at ensuring that the broad thrust of the plan, from a waste policy perspective, aligned with national policy and legislation.

Yours sincerely,

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Paudie Coffey,

Minister for Housing, Planning and Co-ordination of Construction 2020

Please Note: I am a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

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Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist