

Regional Planning Governance & Legislation



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department for

Infrastructure

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All Stakeholders

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09 July 2026

Dear Stakeholder

Transforming Planning – Independent Inspectors Project

Further to my letter of 7 May 2026 regarding the launch of the application process for the appointment of Independent Inspectors, I am pleased to confirm that the Department has now established a list of Independent Inspectors.

These inspectors may now be asked to conduct independent examinations of local development plan documents, as well as public local inquiries and hearings in relation to the consideration of regionally significant and called-in planning applications.

This Open List will remain in place in line with the current project timetable and funding arrangements which extend to 31 March 2029.

This represents a further significant step in the project's implementation adding capacity and flexibility to the system and providing an additional option for "Hear and Report" work alongside the Planning Appeals Commission. An internal panel of senior officers will consider referrals from business areas and decide the appropriate allocation route.

It remains our intention to allocate work in Quarter 2 of 2026/27 financial year, subject to availability.

Yours faithfully

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NOLA JAMIESON
Deputy Director