



**Oifig an Aire Cosanta**  
Office of the Minister for Defence

**An Roinn Cosanta**  
Department of Defence

County Manager,  
South Dublin County Council,  
County Hall,  
Tallaght,  
Dublin 24.

Dear Manager,

In my capacity as a prescribed body under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) I wish to comment on the South Dublin County Council Development Plan which came into effect 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

My concern as Minister for Defence in relation to the Plan centres on Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell. I wish to take this opportunity to outline my position in relation to the policy of South Dublin County Council regarding Casement Aerodrome.

3.2.23.i Policy EE39 and 3.2.23.v Policy EE43:

Casement Aerodrome is the only exclusively military air facility in the country. In that regard it has been Government policy to retain it exclusively for military purposes. I do not intend to change that policy. Accordingly, the Department will not enter into negotiations concerning the development of the Aerodrome for joint military/civilian use. Government policy is quite clear that there is no mandate to develop Casement for civilian use.

3.2.23.ii Policy EE40:

The Department of Defence has already reduced the “no development restriction area” through the introduction of Public Safety Zones. The report commissioned by the Department clearly indicates that this is the minimum requirement to maintain safe operations at the Aerodrome for those both in the air and on the ground.

3.2.23.iii Policy EE41:

The Department is not prepared to amend the security restricted zone around Casement Aerodrome to a “security consultation zone”. However, it is prepared to discuss the possibility of having an agreed written protocol with the Council whereby the needs of the Department and the Military would be met by way of set criteria that would be required to be adhered to in all circumstances with no possible deviation. This protocol would apply to all areas of the security zone outside the boundaries of the Aerodrome. Such discussions would only be conducted between officials of the

Bóthar na Staisiúin, Ann Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara  
Station Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare

Department and officials of South Dublin County Council and no third parties would be allowed to participate nor would they be advised of the content of any protocol until it is finalised.

Should this approach be acceptable to the Council meetings can then be arranged to examine the areas the Department is open to discussing. In this regard you should contact Mr. David Byrne at 045-492456 or by email [davidm.byrne@defence.irlgov.ie](mailto:davidm.byrne@defence.irlgov.ie)

I hope that the above clearly sets out the policy in relation to Casement Aerodrome.

Yours sincerely,



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**ÉAMON Ó CUÍV, T.D.**  
**MINISTER FOR DEFENCE**

17<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.