



Development Plan Team,  
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Dept.,  
Fingal County Council,  
County Hall,  
Main Street,  
Swords,  
Dublin,  
K67 X8Y2.

**Our Ref:** 210360

**Your Ref:** n/a

19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Re: Submission supporting Material Alterations to the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) MKO have prepared this submission to Fingal County Council in support of the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 (hereafter referred to as the 'draft FDP'), with respect to the material alterations that have been included in the draft GCDP as they relate to Dunsink Observatory.

The subject of this submission relates to DIAS support of Material Alterations which relate to Dunsink Observatory and its surrounding lands. These Material Alterations are summarised as follows;

- PA CH 2.21 - Section 2.7.2 Role of Each Settlement, page 74: Move Policy CIOSP16 from Section 4.5.2.9 to Section 2.7.2, after Policy CSP24 regarding the promotion of a "planetarium".
- PA CH 2.22 - Section 2.7.2 Role of Each Settlement, page 75: Amend Objective CSO29 – Dunsink regarding support for the designation of Dunsink Observatory as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- PA CH 2.23 - Section 2.7.2 Role of Each Settlement, page 75: Insert a new objective after Objective CSO29 – Dunsink.
- PA SH 13.2 - Amend zoning of part of lands (5ha) from RA – Residential Area to CI – Community Infrastructure at Dunsink.
- PA SH 13.4 - Amend text of map-based Local Objective 82 relating to light pollution measures.
- PA SH 13.6 – Include two new map-based Local Objectives at lands at Dunsink Observatory to include specific zones around the observatory to protect against light pollution.
- PA CH 2.2 - Section 2.2.12 Strategic Long-Term Reserve, page 45: Amend Section 2.2.12 regarding text relating to light pollution.
- PA CH 2.24 - Section 2.7.2 Role of Each Settlement, page 75: Insert a new objective after Objective CSO29 regarding Green Infrastructure Corridor Dunsink and Tolka Valley Park.
- PA SH 13.7 - Include a new map-based Local Objective at Dunsink regarding a Feasibility Study for Dunsink Lands.



To reiterate from previous submissions, DIAS is a unique public institution as the only Institute for Advanced Studies in Ireland. It is the second oldest Advanced Studies Institute in the world, after the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, and the oldest in Europe. It has a proud and distinguished global reputation by virtue of a track record of achievement by its constituent schools: the School of Celtic Studies; School of Cosmic Physics; and the School of Theoretical Physics. Dunsink Observatory is also an important heritage – and potential World Heritage – site of considerable historical, social, scientific and architectural significance. Already designated a European Site of Historical Significance for Physics, it is a wholly unique entity.

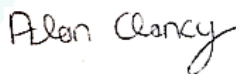
Our client is largely supportive of the content of the draft FDP, and fully supportive of the Material Alterations, as outlined above. They seek to work constructively with the planning authority in respect of the zoning objectives and development management aspects of the plan as they relate to Dunsink Observatory.

The proposed zoning of part of DIAS lands from RA – Residential Area to CI – Community Infrastructure will protect the cultural heritage of their buildings while also facilitating the future development for the improvement and expansion to the existing facilities at Dunsink Observatory. The strengthening of Local Objectives relating to light pollution and the inclusion of protected zones around Dunsink Observatory, where future development will have to demonstrate conformity with best lighting practices, is wholly welcomed by DIAS and will enhance the protection of Dunsink Observatory against Light Pollution. This would allow DIAS to provide guidance and input on any future development to ensure development does not impact on the quality of the night time environment or night sky. In addition, DIAS is supportive of the concept of a Planetarium on the lands of Dunsink adjacent to the Observatory lands on its Meridian Line and the inclusion of an objective which supports the designation of Dunsink Observatory as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We trust that this submission will be considered as supportive for these Material Alterations to remain in the Draft Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 and look forward to dealing with Final County Council in the future in relation to the protection and sustainable development of these lands.

If you require any further detail or discussion relating to the information outlined within this submission, please do not hesitate to get in contact with MKO at the details outlined below.

Yours faithfully,



**Alan Clancy BA, MPlan,**  
**Project Planner,**  
**MKO.**  
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