



Mr. Jim Cullen
Chief Executive
Galway County Council
Áras an Chontae
Prospect Hill
Galway
H91 H6KX

Our Ref: GY_44

20th January 2023

Via email: jcullen@galwaycoco.ie

Re: Provision of a school site at Garraun, Co. Galway

Dear Mr. Cullen,

I am writing to you in relation this Department's current requirement to acquire a permanent school site to accommodate the development of a new 1,000 pupil post primary school facility for Galway Educate Together Secondary School (ETSS).

Galway ETSS was established in 2019 to serve both the Galway City and Oranmore School Planning areas and was initially accommodated in interim accommodation at Grianach House, Merlin Park, Co. Galway. Last September they moved to larger interim accommodation in the old Our Lady's College premises in Newtownsmyth.

The identification of a deliverable permanent site has proven to be extremely challenging to date. A number of sites have been identified, assessed and deemed unsuitable for various reasons.

A circa 14 acre plot of greenfield land at Garraun, Oranmore, Co. Galway between the Coast Road and the Railway Line (within Folio GY14438) has been identified, assessed in consultation with your officials and deemed suitable for the development of the required level of accommodation to meet the requirements of Galway ETSS.

It is also envisaged that further education provision will be accommodated on this site to meet the educational needs of the area.



The development of educational facilities is one of the intended uses of this land in line with the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. The proposed development of this land meets a community need in the area, the land is suitable & sufficient for the development of school buildings and is consistent with the statutory plans for the development of the area.

An attempt was made to acquire this land by negotiation. However, as the registered land owner died intestate and an Executor has not been appointed, it is not possible to acquire good and marketable title.

This Department has an urgent requirement to develop school facilities on these lands, which have been deemed the most suitable to meet this requirement.

Galway County Council are requested to use their powers under the Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000, to compulsorily purchase this circa 14 acre plot of land at Garraun, Oranmore, Co. Galway for the development of the required education facilities.

Once the title is secured the land will transfer into the ownership of the Minister of Education, subject to the approval of the Elected Members of Galway County Council. However, construction of the school development may need to commence in advance of this and consent to proceed with this may also be required.

The Department will fund the full cost of this compulsory purchase including all necessary and vouched expenses incurred by Galway County Council.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any aspects of the above you wish to discuss

Yours sincerely,

Murty Hanly

Acting Principal Officer

Forward Planning and Site Acquisitions

CC. *Ms. Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner, Galway County Council*
Mr. Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services, Galway County Council