

**OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL  
DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED**

**REFERENCE:** DEC 24/31

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Aoife Kearns

**ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:** Killurin, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 DK12.

**NATURE OF APPLICATION:** Request for Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended as to whether the proposed renovations of existing dwelling which comprises of the removal of internal walls to create open plan room and fitting RSJ; excavation of existing concrete floors, installation of 150mm kingspan and rando and pouring new concrete floors; enlarge understairs area for storage; reroofing back flat roof with fibreglass warm roof; rewiring house to standard spec, air to water heat pump, underfloor heating downstairs 1st and 2nd fix pumping in bathroom and kitchen & new triple glazed window and new front and back door is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

**LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT:** 10 Clontarf Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 VY01

**WHEREAS** a question has arisen as to whether the proposed renovations of existing dwelling which comprises of the removal of internal walls to create open plan room and fitting RSJ; excavation of existing concrete floors, installation of 150mm kingspan and rando and pouring new concrete floors; enlarge understairs area for storage; reroofing back flat roof with fibreglass warm roof; rewiring house to standard spec, air to water heat pump, underfloor heating downstairs 1st and 2nd fix pumping in bathroom and kitchen & new triple glazed window and new front and back door is or is not development and is or is not exempted development at 10 Clontarf Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 VY01.

**AS INDICATED** on the particulars received by the Planning Authority on the 25th March 2024.

**AND WHEREAS** Aoife Kearns requested a declaration on the said question from Offaly County Council.


**AND WHEREAS** Offaly County Council, in considering this declaration request, had regard particularly to:

- Section 2, 3(1) and 4(1)(h) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

**AND WHEREAS** Offaly County Council has concluded that the proposed renovations of existing dwelling which comprises of the removal of internal walls to create open plan room and fitting RSJ; excavation of existing concrete floors, installation of 150mm kingspan and rando and pouring new concrete floors; enlarge understairs area for storage; reroofing back flat roof with fibreglass warm roof; rewiring house to standard spec; air to water heat pump, underfloor heating downstairs 1st and 2nd fix pumping in bathroom and kitchen & new triple glazed window and new front and back door is development and is exempted development.

**NOW THEREFORE** Offaly County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereby decides that the proposed renovations of existing dwelling which comprises of the removal of internal walls to create open plan room and fitting RSJ; excavation of existing concrete floors, installation of 150mm kingspan and rando and pouring new concrete floors; enlarge understairs area for storage; reroofing back flat roof with fibreglass warm roof; rewiring house to standard spec; air to water heat pump, underfloor heating downstairs 1st and 2nd fix pumping in bathroom and kitchen & new triple glazed window and new front and back door is **development and is exempted development** at 10 Clontarf Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 VY01

**MATTERS CONSIDERED** In making its decision, the Planning Authority had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

  
Administrative Officer

Date 19/04/24

**Note:** Any person issued with a declaration under subsection 2(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) may on payment to the Board of the prescribed fee, refer a declaration to An Bord Pleanála within 4 weeks of the issuing of the decision.

## Planning Report

### Section 5 Declaration

<b>File Reference:</b>	Dec. 24/31
<b>Question:</b>	Whether the renovation of an existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.
<b>Applicant:</b>	Aoife Kearns
<b>Correspondence Address:</b>	Killurin, Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 DK12
<b>Location:</b>	10 Clontarf Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 VY01

#### 1. Introduction

The question has arisen as to whether the proposed renovation of existing dwelling is or is not development and if so is it or is it not exempted development.

#### 2. Background

The existing dwelling is located on 'Existing Residential' zoned land within the boundary of Tullamore Town.



#### 3. Site History

None indicated on the planning GIS Register

#### 4. Legislative Context

In order to assess whether or not the proposed works constitute exempted development, regard must be had to the following items of legislation:

##### Statutory Provisions

**Section 2 (1) Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, states as follows:**

*“house” means a building or part of a building which is being or has been occupied as a dwelling or was provided for use as a dwelling but has not been*

*occupied, and where appropriate, includes a building which was designed for use as 2 or more dwellings or a flat, an apartment or other dwelling within such a building;*

*“works” includes any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal and, in relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, includes any act or operation involving the application or removal of plaster, paint, wallpaper, tiles or other material to or from the surfaces of the interior or exterior of a structure.*

### **Section 3 (1) Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, defines development.**

*“development” means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.*

### **Section 4 - Exempted Development**

Section 4 (1) (a) – (l) sets out what is exempted development for the purposes of this Act including:

*(h) development consisting of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure and which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or neighbouring structures.*

## **5. Proposal by Applicants**

The Applicants have indicated that the following works will be carried out:

- Removal of internal walls to create open plan room and fitting RSJ
- Excavation of existing concrete floors, installation of 150mm kingspan and rando and pouring new concrete floors
- Enlarge understairs area for storage
- Reroofing back flat roof with fibreglass warm roof
- Rewiring house to standard spec
- Air to water heat pump, underfloor heating downstairs 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fix pumping in bathroom and kitchen
- New triple glazed window and new front and back door.

## **6. Evaluation**

**Question: *Whether the proposed works (as listed) to the existing dwelling are development and if so, are they exempted development?***

In considering the proposed works against the definitions of ‘development’ and ‘works’ as provided in the Act, it is the view of the Planning Authority that the proposed works are deemed as development as it includes alterations and repairs to the existing dwelling.

**Question: *Is this proposal considered as Exempted Development?***

With regard to the proposed works which are described in the submitted documents, the Planning Authority are satisfied that the proposed works would not

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result in a material alteration to the dwelling appearance and the finished development would not be inconsistent with the character of the structure.

**7. Conclusion**

It is recommended that the Applicants be advised that the proposed development is **development and is exempted development.**

**Declaration on Development and Exempted Development  
Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

**WHEREAS** a question has arisen as to whether the proposed renovations of existing dwelling which comprises of:

- Removal of internal walls to create open plan room and fitting RSJ
- Excavation of existing concrete floors, installation of 150mm kingspan and rando and pouring new concrete floors
- Enlarge understairs area for storage
- Reroofing back flat roof with fibreglass warm roof
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- New triple glazed window and new front and back door.

is or is not development and if so is or is not exempted development at 10 Clontarf Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 VY01

**AS INDICATED** on the particulars received by the Planning Authority on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**AND WHEREAS** Aoife Kearns requested a declaration on the said question from Offaly County Council;

**AND WHEREAS** Offaly County Council, in considering this declaration request, had regard particularly to:

- (a) Section 2, 3(1) and 4(1)(h) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

**AND WHEREAS** Offaly County Council has concluded that the proposed renovations of existing dwelling which comprises of:

- Removal of internal walls to create open plan room and fitting RSJ
- Excavation of existing concrete floors, installation of 150mm kingspan and rando and pouring new concrete floors
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- Air to water heat pump, underfloor heating downstairs 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fix pumping in bathroom and kitchen &
- New triple glazed window and new front and back door.

is development and is exempted development.

**NOW THEREFORE** Offaly County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereby decides that:

The proposed renovations of existing dwelling which comprises of:

- Removal of internal walls to create open plan room and fitting RSJ

- Excavation of existing concrete floors, installation of 150mm kingspan and rando and pouring new concrete floors
- Enlarge understairs area for storage
- Reroofing back flat roof with fibreglass warm roof
- Rewiring house to standard spec
- Air to water heat pump, underfloor heating downstairs 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fix pumping in bathroom and kitchen &
- New triple glazed window and new front and back door.

is development and is exempted development at development at 10 Clontarf Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 VY01

*Please note that any person issued with a declaration under subsection 2(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) may on payment to the Board of the prescribed fee, refer a declaration to An Bord Pleanála within 4 weeks of the issuing of the decision.*

Michael Duffy

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*Michael Duffy*  
*Executive Planner*  
*16<sup>th</sup> April 2024*



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*Ed Kelly*  
*Acting Senior Executive Planner*  
*17<sup>th</sup> April 2024*



**APPENDIX A**  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING**  
**REPORT FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS**



Screening is used to determine if an AA is necessary by examining:

- If the plan / project is directly connected with / necessary to the management of the European site.
- If the effects will be significant on a European site in view of its conservation objectives, either alone / in combination with other plans / projects.

Planning Authority: OCC

Planning Application Ref. DEC24/31

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	PROPOSED RENOVATION OF EXISTING DWELLING		
Site location:	10 Clontarf Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 VY01		
Site size:	N/A	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	N/A
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	Charleville Wood SAC – 1.51km Clara Bog SAC – 7.82km		
Distance to European Site(s):	As above – all as crow flies		
The characteristics of existing, proposed or other approved plans / projects which may cause interactive / cumulative impacts with the project being assessed and which may affect the European site:	None		
Is the application accompanied by an EIAR?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITE(S):			
The reasons for the designation of the European site(s):			
<b>Charleville Wood SAC – Features of Interest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]</li> </ul> <b>Clara Bog SAC – Features of Interest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>• Active raised bogs [7110]</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]</li> <li>• Bog woodland [91D0]</li> </ul>			
The conservation objectives / qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site: (which are taken from the European site synopses and, if applicable, a Conservation Management Plan; all available on <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> ) (ATTACH INFO.)			
<b>Site Name: Charleville Wood SAC, Site Code: 000571</b> <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000571.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000571.pdf</a> <b>Site Name: Clara Bog SAC, Site Code: 000572</b> <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000572.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000572.pdf</a>			
(C) NPWS ADVICE:			
Advice received from NPWS over phone:	None Received		

Summary of advice received from NPWS in written form (ATTACH SAME):	None Received		
<b>(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:</b>			
<i>(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant – if uncertain assume the effect(s) are significant).</i>			
If the answer is 'yes' to any of the questions below, then the effect is significant. (Please justify your answer. 'Yes' / 'No' alone is insufficient)			
<b>Would there be...</b>			
... any impact on an Annex 1 habitat? (Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of AA Guidance).			Not likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... a reduction in habitat area on a European site?			There will be no reduction in the habitat area. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the European site?			Not likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the European site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?			Not likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the European site?			None likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
Would the project interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans / projects. [Look at <i>in-combination effects</i> with completed, approved but not completed, and proposed plans / projects. Look at projects / plans within and adjacent to European sites and identify them]. Simply stating that there are no cumulative impacts' is insufficient.			No other plans known of in the vicinity of the site. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
<b>(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:</b>			
<b>Screening can result in:</b>			
1.	AA is not required because the project is directly connected with / necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.		
2.	No potential for significant effects / AA is not required.		
3.	Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain. (In this situation seek a Natura Impact Statement from the applicant, or reject the project. Reject if too potentially damaging / inappropriate.		
Therefore, does the project fall into category 1, 2 or 3 above?		Category 2	
Justify why it falls into relevant category above:		There would be no likely significant impact on the European site from the proposed development due to the scale of the proposed development and the separation distance between the subject site and European Site.	
<b>Name:</b>	Michael Duffy		
<b>Position:</b>	Executive Planner	<b>Date:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024