

PUBLIC NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT

issued by

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM

in accordance with

SECTIONS 20 AND 21 OF PART 4 OF THE PRISONS ACT 2007

- (a) I, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, hereby give notice on this **29th day of February 2008** that the Irish Prison Service intends to construct a new prison development (the "**Development**") at Thornton Hall in and around the Townlands of Kilsallaghan, Dunmucky, Thorntown, Coolatrath West, Kilcoskan, Coolquoy Common, Rath, Glebe, Newtown Commons, Fingal, County Dublin.
- (b) The purpose of the Development is to accommodate approximately 1,400 prisoners based on single cell occupancy and with operational flexibility to accommodate up to 2,200 prisoners. The gross floor area of all buildings will be circa 140,000 square metres all within a site of circa 57 hectares (circa 140 acres). Access to the Development will be via a new access road off the R135, including an underpass below the existing R130. The secure facilities within the Development will be bounded by a circa 7.2m high perimeter wall which will be constructed behind the existing landscaped perimeter screen planting. The Development is located within an Architectural Conservation Area and there are three protected structures within the vicinity of the site of the Development. The buildings within the Development will be generally two-storeys high, apart from the control centre which will be three-storeys.
- The Development will comprise:-
- Secure residential accommodation for prisoners in separate blocks
 - Educational, workshops and training services and ancillary activities
 - Healthcare and therapeutic facilities
 - Catering and dining facilities
 - Welfare/support services
 - Visiting facilities
 - Indoor and outdoor recreational facilities
 - Control centre
 - Circa 7.2m high perimeter wall and security fencing and security surveillance systems
 - Circa 1,200 surface car parking spaces
 - Access road, including new signalised junction at the R135 and an underpass of the R130
 - Storage facilities
 - Other ancillary facilities and supporting structures and services
- (c) The location of the Development is identified in paragraph (a) above.
- (d) An environmental impact assessment ("**EIA**") has been prepared in connection with the Development. Copies of the EIA and the visual representation of the exterior of the Development may be obtained from the offices of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Pinebrook House, 71-74 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 and the offices of the Irish Prison Service, Estate Management, IDA Business Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford, Co. Longford. The documentation is available for viewing during public opening hours at: (i) the offices of Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15; (ii) the offices of Fingal County Council, County Hall, Swords, Fingal, Co Dublin; (iii) the offices of the Irish Prison Service, IDA Business Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford, Co. Longford; and (iv) the offices of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Pinebrook House, 71-74 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. The Non Technical Summary of the EIA is also available on the Irish Prison Service website at www.irishprisons.ie and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform website at www.justice.ie.
- (e) Any interested party may, and is invited to, make written submissions or observations (accompanied by their name and address) on the Development to the appointed rapporteur, Mr. Jim Farrelly at Office of the Rapporteur, Thornton Hall Project, Level 3, Block 2, Harcourt Centre, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 marked for the attention of "**MR JIM FARRELLY, THORNTON DEVELOPMENT RAPPOREUR**" within a period of 6 weeks commencing on the day after the day on which this notice was issued (such date of issue being the **29th day of February 2008**, as referred to in paragraph (a) above).
- (f) Any submissions or observations made by interested parties in accordance with paragraph (e) above must be accompanied by the name and address of the person or body making them.