



**An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**

**Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

**Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister**

Brendan Smith T.D.
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare St
Dublin 2

15 October 2018

Ref: PQ 39799/18

Dear Brendan,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to Waterways Ireland and the development of a Blueway in the waters of Lough Oughter, County Cavan.

I undertook a commitment in my reply to request that Waterways Ireland further examine the possibility of extending the Erne navigation and revisit the investigative studies which have been carried out to date.

Waterways Ireland has informed me that it will explore the potential of carrying out an independent review of the environmental studies that have been conducted.

However, it is the understanding of Waterways Ireland that any new environmental studies will be extremely costly and as the initial investigation had confirmed that the environmental damage caused by raising water levels to create navigation could not be mitigated, further expenditure would bring no value to the project and would have provided no benefit for the outlay involved.

Yours Sincerely,


Josepha Madigan T.D.
Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht