

Hamas announces resignation of Gaza government

Move is 'meaningless spin' and a stalling tactic, say senior Israeli officials

MARK WEISS
In Jerusalem

Hamas announced yesterday that the government administering the Gaza Strip on its behalf has resigned and signalled that it is ready to transfer its powers to a Palestinian technocratic committee. The committee was established as part of a US-backed peace plan, which was set out after the implementation of a fragile ceasefire in October.

"Hamas has taken a new step in that it will no longer be in charge of the Gaza Strip, in order to remove any pretexts for the occupation, which continues its aggression and war of extermination," said Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem. Senior Israeli officials said the move was "meaningless spin" and a stalling tactic.

"In practice, all the officials remain in their posts and Hamas continues to rule," said an Israeli official.

'Taken note'

"The move is meant to allow the technocratic committee to enter under conditions that are convenient for Hamas, which is essentially continuing to manage affairs behind the scenes."

The US-appointed Board of Peace, which was created to advance the ceasefire agreement, said it had "taken note" of Hamas's announcement, but that it would wait for "actions, not promises". The



Hamas has taken a new step in that it will no longer be in charge of the Gaza Strip, in order to remove any pretexts for the occupation

board called on Hamas to disarm, saying: "The core principle remains one authority, one law and one weapon."

Hamas has accused Israel of repeatedly violating the ceasefire and failing to go through with other parts of the plan, which calls for Israeli forces to withdraw from Gaza as Hamas lays down its weapons. The technocratic committee was established six months ago as part of the US president Donald Trump's 20-point plan, but has not yet begun to operate.

Israel is not allowing members of the technical committee, who are in Cairo, to enter the Strip. Israel claims that the technical committee can only enter Gaza after Hamas disarms. Yesterday's announcement by Hamas does not in-

clude its military wing. Mediators Qatar, Turkey and Egypt are still negotiating with Hamas over its disarmament. Fresh talks will be held this week with Hamas in Cairo in an effort to "bridge the gaps" regarding the second phase of the ceasefire agreement that was reached in October.

Hamas is opposed to surrendering its arms directly to Israel, but is willing to discuss transferring some weapons to an agreed Palestinian body.

An international force Israeli forces control almost 70 per cent of the coastal enclave, but under the second phase of the ceasefire plan, Israeli troops will withdraw and be replaced by an international force. According to the plan, displaced Palestinians will relocate in stages to new residential neighbourhoods under a significant reconstruction expected to take a decade to complete.

Some 1,200 civilians and soldiers were killed when militants stormed into Israel across the Gaza border on October 7th, 2023, according to Israel. And Israel's retaliatory military campaign in Gaza has killed more than 73,000 people, according to the Hamas-controlled health ministry.

Gaza health officials said an Israeli air strike killed a couple in an apartment in Gaza City yesterday.

Two other strikes – one on a tent housing displaced people and another on a vehicle in the days after the Hamas-led attack on Israel and Israel's subsequent bombardment of the Gaza Strip. Barbara Cuglietta, the museum's director, said the



European Jewish museums face threats and falling visitor numbers

Nina Siegal

Museum directors say misconceptions about links to Israel hurting institutions

In the autumn of 2023, the Jewish Museum of Belgium was drawing crowds to its show of photographs by fashion portraitist Erwin Blumenfeld. Then came October 7th.

Attendance at the museum dropped precipitously in the days after the Hamas-led attack on Israel and Israel's subsequent bombardment of the Gaza Strip. Barbara Cuglietta, the museum's director, said the

building was soon as empty as it had been during the Covid-19 pandemic. School groups stopped visiting, and the public stopped showing up.

"I don't like to use the word 'boycott,' but it was like isolation," she said recently by phone. The next year, attendance plunged to 9,000 visitors. Across Europe, many Jewish museums have seen visitor numbers drop, patrons back

away and security threats rise since the autumn of 2023, according to a recent report by the Amsterdam-based Association of European Jewish Museums, a non-profit network of 55 institutions. The association's members also reported online harassment, vandalism and aggression against staff members.

The root of the problems, said Mirjam Wenzel, the association's chair, was that many people perceive Europe's Jewish museums as somehow tied to Israel, when in fact they are largely publicly funded by local governments, ticket sales and sponsorships, and typically focus on the history of Jews on the Continent.

"We are being attacked as Israeli institutions and identified with the state of Israel," Wenzel said.

In interviews, 10 directors of Jewish museums throughout Europe said their institutions had all felt shock waves after the October 7th attacks. Many agreed that a perceived association with Israel was damaging their institutions. But there were differing opinions on how, or whether, Jewish museums should respond.

Museum directors in Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt and Vienna said they were struggling with lower attendance. But not all museums have experienced the same drop. The directors of similar institutions in Berlin, Paris and Prague said their attendance was flat or had even increased since October 7th, 2023.

Diversity of opinions

Paul Salmona, director of the Museum of Art and History of Judaism, in the Marais district of Paris, said his museum's attendance rose slightly last year and that membership was now at the highest level since its 1998 opening.

He noted that France's Jewish population is the third largest in the world, after the United States and Israel, and said he wanted his programming to reflect the diversity of opinions among French Jews – including about Israel.

"Of course we are in the centre of Paris in a traditionally mixed Jewish neighbourhood, where Jewish people have lived since the 18th century," he said. "It might be different in the Paris suburbs."

It is also different in places with smaller Jewish populations. Denmark, for example, has about 2,500 Jewish residents, according to Janus Moller Jensen, director of the Danish Jewish Museum in Copenhagen. Immediately after

A police officer stands guard in front of the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam. Security around Jewish institutions has been stepped up in Europe. PHOTOGRAPH: MEXX VAN DER LIEUW/GETTY IMAGES

October 7th, 2023, "there was a huge support for the museum", he said, but "quite soon after the attack it turned into a very anti-Jewish sentiment, if not outright anti-Semitic attacks". In 2024, attendance dropped by 37 per cent, he said, and in 2025 it was down by 32 per cent from 2023 levels.

'Support for Israel'

"People chose to stay away because they felt that visiting would be a support for Israel, and they associated all Jewish life with Israel," he said. "We try to explain that we are a state-funded museum of culture dealing with 400 years of Jewish life in Denmark. They make a connection between us and Israel that isn't there."

We try to explain that we are a state-funded museum of culture dealing with 400 years of Jewish life in Denmark. They make a connection between us and Israel that isn't there

A year after the October 7th attack, the Jewish Museum of Belgium closed for a planned restoration. But the construction, organised by the local government, has since stalled.

Then came the vandalism. One day in March 2025, Cuglietta, the director, arrived at the museum to find the words "Queers for Palestine" scrawled about 40ft long across the building's facade.

Cuglietta said it only made her want to reopen the museum and get back to her mission of supporting Jewish life in Belgium. She plans to do so in the spring of 2027.

"We feel the same level of urgency to be open again and to speak our truth," she said. "We are not going to be shut down. We are not going to be cancelled." – The New York Times.



An installation depicting Jewish historical sites in the city is displayed in the Jewish museum in Munich. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHANNES SIMON/GETTY IMAGES

FÓGRA AR LEASUITHE ÁBHAIR BEARTAITHE I DTACA LE HATHRÚ MOLTA UIMH. 2 AR AN BPLEAN FORBARTHA CONTAE FÓGRA FAOI ALT 58 (13) DEN ACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2024 (ARNA LEASÚ)

Tugtar fógra leis seo go bhfuil Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, arb í Údarás Pleanála an Chontae í, tar éis cruinnithe den Chomhairle Speisialta an 19 agus an 24 Meitheamh 2026, agus tar éis breithniú a dhéanamh ar Athrú Beartaithe Uimh. 2 ar an bPlean Forbartha Contae 2022-2028 agus ar Thuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh maidir le haighneachtai / tuairimí a fuarthas, tar éis réiteach a dhéanamh i gcomhréir le halt 58(13) (a)(ii) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2024 (arna leasú), go bhfuil sé beartaithe aici leasuithe ábhair a dhéanamh i dtaca le hAthrú Molta Uimh. 2 ar an bPlean Forbartha Contae 2022-2028.

I gcomhréir le halt 58(13)(b) agus le halt 58(13)(c) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2024 (arna leasú), chinn Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas nach bhfuil Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta (SEA) de dhíth agus nach bhfuil Measúnacht Chúil (AA) de dhíth i dtaca leis na leasuithe ábhair beartaithe.

Beidh cóip de leasuithe ábhair beartaithe i dtaca le hAthrú Molta Uimh. 2 ar an bPlean Forbartha Contae 2022-2028, agus de Chinntí Scagtha SEA agus AA i gcomhréir le halt 58(13) den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (arna leasú), agus de cháipéisí gaolmhara comhshaoil, ar fáil go poiblí lena n-íniúchadh le linn gnáthuaireanta oscailte (seachas laethanta saoire poiblí) idir **Dé Máirt, 7 Iúil 2026 agus Dé Céadaoin, 5 Lúnasa 2026**, an dá lá san áireamh, sna háiteanna seo a leanas:

- Leabharlann an Chontae, Plás Pharthaláin, Tamhlacht, D24 TNP8
- Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht, D24 A3XC
- Leabharlann Leamhcáin, Ionad Siopadóireachta Leamhcáin, Bóthar an Chaisleáin Nua, K78 V295

Is féidir an cháipéisíocht ar fad a fheiceáil ar, nó a íoslódáil ó, shuíomh gréasáin na comhairle ag: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/devplan2022/>.

Aighneachtai

Cuirtear fáilte roimh aighneachtai nó tuairimí i scríbhinn ó bhaill den phobal nó ó pháirtithe leasmhara i ndáil le leasuithe ábhair beartaithe i dtaca le hAthrú Molta Uimh. 2 ar an bPlean Forbartha Contae 2022-2028, agus Cinntí SEA agus AA agus tuarascálacha gaolmhara SEA agus AA i gcomhréir le halt 58 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (arna leasú).

Is féidir aighneachtai nó tuairimí scríofa a chur faoi bhráid an Údaráis Pleanála laistigh den tréimhse seo a leanas: **Dé Máirt, 7 Iúil 2026 go dtí Dé Céadaoin, 5 Lúnasa 2026** agus an dá dháta sin san áireamh ar cheann de na beatai seo a leanas:

1. **Ar Líne:** Trí thairseach ar líne na Comhairle do chomhairliúcháin phoiblí: <https://consult.southdublincoco.ie/ga> (suas go dtí **11:59pm Dé Céadaoin, 5 Lúnasa 2026**).
2. **Scríobh chuig:** An tOifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach, An Rannóg Pleanála Chun Cinn, An Roinn Pleanála agus Iompair, Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas, Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht, Baile Átha Cliath 24, D24 A3EX (go dtí **4:00pm Dé Céadaoin, 5 Lúnasa 2026**).

Gach aighneacht nó tuairim scríofa maidir leis na leasuithe ábhair beartaithe i dtaca le hAthrú Molta Uimh. 2 ar an bPlean Forbartha Contae 2022-2028 agus cáipéisí gaolmhara a chuirtear faoi bhráid Chomhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas laistigh den tréimhse thuasluaite, cuirfidh an Chomhairle san áireamh iad sula gcuirfead aon leasú ábhair i bhfeidhm.

Biodh a leanas ar eolas agat maidir le haighneacht nó tuairim a dhéanamh:

- Ní mór aighneachtai nó tuairimí a bheith marcáilte go soiléir mar seo a leanas "Leasuithe Ábhair Beartaithe ar Athrú Molta Uimh. 2 ar an bPlean Forbartha Contae 2022-2028" agus ba chóir go mbeadh tagairt déanta don uimhir thagartha/do na huimhreacha tagartha ábhartha a ghabhann leis an leasú ábhair beartaithe ábhartha (a thosaíonn le 'MA').
- Tá páistí, nó grúpaí nó cumainn a oibríonn ar son leasanna páistí, i dteideal aighneachtai nó tuairimí a dhéanamh.
- Ba cheart go gcuimseofaí leis na haighneachtai ar fad d'ainm agus seoladh teagmhála agus, más cuí, sonraí aon eagraíochta, grúpa poiblí nó cuideachta srl., a n-oibríonn tú ar a son.
- Próiseas oscailte agus poiblí is ea an próiseas pleanála, agus dá réir sin, is cuid den tairseach poiblí gach aighneacht/tuairim agus beidh fáil ag an bpobal le breathnú orthu. Féadfaidh sé go bhfoilséofar ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle Contae iad agus dá réir sin nior cheart go mbeadh aon fhaisnéis phearsanta iontu.
- Ba cheart aighneachtai agus tuairimí a dhéanamh trí aon mheán amháin, é sin trí chóip chrua sa phost nó tríd an tairseach chomhairliúcháin.
- Ní ghlacfar le haighneachtai ar ríomhphost ná le haighneachtai deireanacha.

Eoin Burke,
Stiúrthóir Pleanála agus Iompair.

Suíomh gréasáin/Web: www.sdcc.ie

NOTICE OF PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS TO PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 2 TO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN NOTICE UNDER SECTION 58 (13) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2024 (AS AMENDED)

Notice is hereby given, that the Council of the County of South Dublin, being the Planning Authority for the County has, following Special Council meetings on the 19th and 24th June 2026, and having considered the Proposed Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Chief Executive's Report in respect of submissions / observations received, have resolved in accordance with Section 58(13)(a) (ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), that South Dublin County Council, proposes to make material alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

In accordance with Section 58(13)(b) and Section 58(13)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), South Dublin County Council has determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required and that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required with respect to the proposed material alterations.

A copy of the proposed material alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028, and the SEA and AA Screening Determinations in accordance with Section 58 (13) of the Planning and Development Act (as amended), and associated environmental reports, will be available for public inspection during normal opening hours (excluding public holidays) from **Tuesday, 7th July 2026 to Wednesday, 5th August 2026** inclusive, at the following locations:

- County Library, Parthalán Place, Tallaght, D24 TNP8
- County Hall, Tallaght, D24 A3XC
- Lucan Library, Lucan Shopping Centre, Newcastle Road, K78 V295

All documentation may also be viewed on, or downloaded from, the council's website at: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/devplan2022/>

Submissions

Written submissions or observations with respect to the proposed material alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028, and the SEA and AA Determinations and associated SEA and AA reports in accordance with Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act (as amended), are invited from members of the public and other interested parties.

Written Submissions and observations may be made to the Planning Authority within the period from **Tuesday, 7th July 2026 to Wednesday, 5th August 2026** inclusive in one of the following ways:

1. **Online:** On the Council's online public consultation portal at: <http://consult.southdublincoco.ie> (up to **11:59pm on Wednesday, 5th August 2026**).
2. **Write to:** Senior Executive Officer, Forward Planning Section, Planning and Transportation Department, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 A3EX (up to **4:00pm on Wednesday, 5th August 2026**).

All written submissions or observations with respect to the proposed material alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028 and associated documents, made to South Dublin County Council within the above stated period, shall be taken into consideration by the Council before the making of any material alteration.

In respect of making a submission or observation please note the following:

- Submissions or observations should be clearly marked "**Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022-2028**" and should quote the relevant proposed material alteration reference number(s) (which commences with 'MA').
- Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are entitled to make submissions or observations.
- All submissions or observations should include your name and a contact address and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., which you represent.
- The planning process is an open and public one; therefore, all submissions/ observations are a matter of public record and will be available for public viewing. They may also be placed on the County Council's website and therefore should not include any personal information.
- Submissions and observations should be made in **one medium only** i.e. hard copy by post or via the consultation portal.
- Email submissions and late submissions will not be accepted.

Eoin Burke,
Director of Planning and Transport.

