Statement by Minister Flanagan on the Legalisation Bill passed by the Knesset

"I am deeply disappointed by the decision of Israeli legislators to pass the so-called Legalisation Bill on settlements in the West Bank.

"This represents a further serious setback for the Middle East Peace Process. It has been widely criticised both internationally and by many in Israel.

"It is a deepening of the settlements and a flagrant violation of international law.

"I am calling on the Israeli government to recognise the damaging consequences of this course of action and to take a clear decision not to implement the new law.

"Once again, I am calling for an end to all settlement construction.

"Ireland remains steadfast in its support for a comprehensive two state solution which protects the future of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples."