



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-005665-20
ABP-306243-19

Having regard to section 177D of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as inserted by section 57 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, and to the size and scale of the peat harvesting area within the Coolnacarton Bog Group which was carried out subsequent to 20th September 2012 and to the proximity of the peatland sites to a number of European sites,

the Board is satisfied that:

- (a) an environmental impact assessment and an appropriate assessment were required in respect of the development concerned, and
- (b) exceptional circumstances exist such that the Board considers it appropriate to permit the opportunity for regularisation of the development by permitting an application for substitute consent.

In this regard, the Board considered that –

- the regularisation of the development concerned would not circumvent the purpose and objectives of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive or the Habitats Directive;
- the applicant had, or could reasonably have had, a belief that the development was not unauthorised;
- the ability to carry out an assessment of the environmental impacts of the development for the purpose of an environmental impact assessment or an

appropriate assessment, and to provide for public participation in such an assessment, has not been substantially impaired;

- the actual or likely significant effects on the environment or adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, if any, resulting from the carrying out of the development, could likely be substantially remediated; and
- the applicant has not otherwise carried out any unauthorised development.

Board Member

Date: 28/04/2020

Dave Walsh