An Bord Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-011601-23
ABP-311057-21

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 20/12/2022.

The Board decided to refuse permission, generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations.

Reasons and Considerations

1. Having regard to the absence of comprehensive information on the potential effects on climate change on the applicant's water balance model, which provides the basis for the assessment of hydrological effects, and in the absence of details regarding the applicant's objective to introduce operational efficiencies, the Board is not satisfied that the proposed development can take place within the carrying capacity of the Lough Skannive catchment without adverse effects on biodiversity, archaeology and the likely future demands of Carna-Kilkieran Regional Water Supply Scheme. The proposed development would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. Having regard to the location of the site, adjoining and hydrologically connected to Connemara Bog Complex SAC, the Board is not satisfied, on the basis of the submissions made in connection with the planning application and the appeal, that adequate information has been provided on the effect of the proposed hydrological regime of the Qualifying Interests of the European site along the northern shore of Lough Skannive, or the likely effects of the proposed abstraction regime on water levels in Lough Skannive in-combination with potential effects of climate change . The Board is not in a position to conclude that the proposed development individually, or in

combination with other plans or projects would not adversely affect the integrity of Connemara Bog Complex SAC (Site Code: 002034), in view of the site's conservation objectives, and the Board is precluded from granting permission for this proposed development.

Board Member Maria Fitzgerald **Date:** 03/01/2023

Maria Fitzgerald