

Our Case Number: ACP-323894-25
Your Reference: Uisce Éireann



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

AECOM
4th Floor Adelphi Plaza
Adelphi Centre
George's Street Upper
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin

Date: 13 April 2026

Re: Proposed Redevelopment of Newcastle West Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP)
Newcastle West, County Limerick.

Dear Sir / Madam,

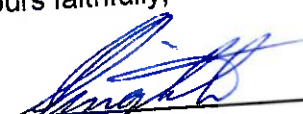
I have been asked by An Coimisiún Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the meeting of the 25th of March 2026.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter, please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

PC07

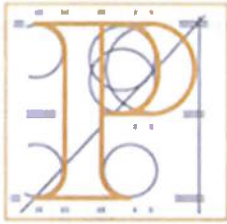
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An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ACP-323894-25

Case Reference / Description	Proposed Redevelopment of Newcastle West Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP), Newcastle West, County Limerick.		
Case Type	Pre Application Consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Date	25/03/2026	Start Time	14:30pm
Location	MS Teams	End Time	15:15pm

Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála

Stephen Rhys Thomas, Assistant Director of Planning, Chair

Donal Donnelly, Senior Planning Inspector

Lauren Griffin, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant

Angus Hall, Uisce Éireann

Martin Keane, Uisce Éireann

Eamon Hutton, Uisce Éireann

Michael McConnell, AECOM

Dean Atwell, AECOM

Brendan Kemp, AECOM

Introduction

The Commission's representative welcomed the prospective applicant to the meeting and introduced those attending from the Commission.

The Commission's representative mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre application consultation process:

- To give an opinion as to whether the proposed development comes within the provisions of s.37A such that an application for approval should be made to the Board under s37E.
- To provide the Commission with an opportunity to give advice regarding the procedures around the making of any application and what considerations relating to proper planning and sustainable development and the environment may have a bearing on a decision.
- The Commission will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Commission once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Commission will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Commission, and public consultations may also be directed by the Commission.
- The Commission may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Commission in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

- The use of AI is strictly prohibited.

Presentation

The prospective applicant set out their presentation, which is attached to the file.

The following topics were discussed:

- Introductions
- Background & Need for Scheme
- Proposed Development
- Site Context / Designations
- Appropriate Assessment & EIA
- Policy Considerations
- Strategic Infrastructure Assessment
- Next Steps

Discussion

- The Commission's representatives were of the preliminary view that the proposed development does not constitute SID; however, it was advised that the final decision lies with the Commission.
- It was noted that the proposed development was examined for its contribution to fulfilling objectives outlined in the NPF and the RSES. While it does align with certain regional policies, it does not appear to meet the criteria to elevate its status to SID.
- The proposed development would affect one local authority: Limerick City and County Council.
- The Commission's representative queried if the proposed development been screened for NIS. The prospective applicant confirmed that an initial AA screening was undertaken. The Commission's representatives noted the potential for ecological pathways to the site and that otter is a qualifying interest species for the Lower River Shannon SAC.

- The prospective applicant confirmed while undertaking a flood risk assessment the need for compensatory flood storage. The Commission's representatives sought confirmation as to whether proposed compensatory flood storage would impact on the recorded monument in this area. The applicant was confident that it would not.
- The Commission's representative advised that a robust Water Framework Directive Assessment should be carried out.
- The Commission's representative advised that any reasonable alternatives are clearly demonstrated in the EIAR.
- The Commission queried if further ecological surveys been undertaken and the prospective applicant confirmed surveying work was continuing.

Conclusion

The Commission's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will be issued in the meantime and that the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting.

The meeting concluded at 15:15pm



Stephen Rhys Thomas
Assistant Director of Planning