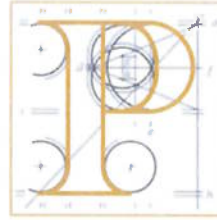


**Our Case Number:** ACP-323980-25



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

Environmental Protection Agency  
EIA Planning  
Water, Energy & Business Support Programme  
PO Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
Co. Wexford  
Y35 W821

**Date:** 03 June 2026

**Re:** Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region  
in the counties of Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Kildare, and Dublin.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.


The Commission will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála when they have been processed by the Commission.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime 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,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eimear Reilly  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737184

PA09

Teil  
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Láithreán Gréasáin  
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

**From:** [EIAPanning](#)  
**To:** [SIDS](#)  
**Cc:** [Eimear Reilly](#)  
**Subject:** ACP-323980-25 - Uisce Éireann Shannon Water Supply Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 4:58:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[ACP-323980-25-Request for submission observations.pdf](#)  
[ACP-323980-25 Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region - EPA 02 June 2026.pdf](#)  
[SID Application- Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region - EPA 24 Feb 2026.pdf](#)

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**Re: Notice of Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development - Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region**  
**Reference: ACP-323980-25**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see attached observations regarding correspondence received by the Environmental Protection Agency on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in relation to the above development.

Also attached are observations previously made by the Agency on this SID application (dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026) for ease of reference.

For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning matters, please contact [eiaplanning@epa.ie](mailto:eiaplanning@epa.ie).

Yours faithfully,  
Marian Doyle

Water, Energy and Business Support Programme  
Office of Environmental Sustainability  
An Clár um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil  
Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



053-916 0600 (Switch)

[eiaplanning@epa.ie](mailto:eiaplanning@epa.ie)

[www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)



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**From:** Eimear Reilly <[e.reilly@pleanala.ie](mailto:e.reilly@pleanala.ie)>

**Sent:** Wednesday 6 May 2026 15:07

**To:** EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>  
**Cc:** Alex Rea <alexander.hoganrea@pleanala.ie>  
**Subject:** ACP-323980-25 - Uisce Éireann Shannon Water Supply Project

Good afternoon

Please find attached, for your attention, a letter from An Coimisiún Pleanála in relation to the above-mentioned application. A hard copy of this letter will also issue to you by post.

Kind regards  
Eimear

Eimear Reilly  
Executive Officer  
Strategic Infrastructure Development  
An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902  
Teil: 01-873-7184

Má fhaigheann tú an ríomhphost seo lasmuigh de na gnáthuaireanta oibre, ní bheidh mé ag súil le freagra ná gníomh lasmuigh de d'uaireanta oibre féin.

If you receive this email outside of normal working hours, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours

Smaoinigh ar an timpeallacht sula ndéanann tú an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil.

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**Fógra Rúin:** Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon chomhaid atá nasctha leis faoi rún agus dírithe amháin don seolaí. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bainisteoir an chórais.

**Tabhair faoi deara led thoil:** aon tuairimí nochtaithe san ríomhphost seo is iad tuairimí an tseoltóra féin agus níl sé intuigthe gurb iad tuairimí An Coimisiún Pleanála nó go gcloíonn siad le polasaithe ráite An Coimisiún.

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LoCall: 0818 33 55 99

An Coimisiún Pleanála

Via email to: [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie)

02 June 2026

**Case Reference: ACP-323980-25**  
**Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region**  
**in the counties of Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Kildare, and Dublin.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to your correspondence received on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 requesting observations from the Agency on the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application by Uisce Éireann for the above referenced development.

With respect to Section 25(6) of the Water Environment (Abstractions and Associated Impoundments) Act 2022, hereafter referred to as the Abstractions Act, the Agency advises:

- The Agency is satisfied that the proposed development, the subject of the application for permission, is development comprising of a water abstraction (raw water intake) located at Garrynatineel, Ballina, Co. Tipperary.
- A water abstraction licence under the Abstractions Act will be required for the abstraction as it exceeds the licensing threshold of  $\geq 2,000$  m<sup>3</sup>/day. The Agency has not yet received a water abstraction licence application relating to the proposed development described above.
- The abstraction associated with the above referenced development is reliant on the Ardnacrusha dam, operated by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB). The Agency understands that ESB will apply for a water abstraction licence for the abstraction and associated impoundment (Ardnacrusha dam) relating to the Ardnacrusha hydroelectric scheme. The Agency will consider and decide on the ESB application prior to considering the licence application for the proposed abstraction relating to the above Water Supply Project.

It should be noted that observations previously made by the Agency on this SID application remain relevant (see attached correspondence dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for ease of reference).

In respect of the additional specific matters a) and b) raised in your correspondence received on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026, the Agency makes the following observations:

- The proposed development must not compromise the achievement of the environmental objectives for the relevant waterbodies, including any downstream waterbodies. The licence applicant will be required to demonstrate, with supporting evidence, that the proposed abstraction will not adversely affect these objectives.
- To support this assessment, the Agency has published a methodology for evaluating water abstractions and associated impoundments. This methodology outlines the hydrological conditions and criteria to be used in determining whether an abstraction is having, or could potentially have, a significant impact on the environmental conditions necessary for a waterbody to achieve its objectives.

These requirements are to be assessed in accordance with:

**EPA (2025)** – [Water Abstractions and Associated Impoundments: Methodology to Assess and Identify Significant Abstractions in Ireland](#)

- The Agency notes from available data that there are currently five known point source discharges to water in the Shannon (LOWER)\_050 and \_060 waterbodies). The main discharge is the Castletroy urban waste water treatment plant primary discharge. The Agency has an application from Uisce Éireann for a review of the Castletroy waste water discharge licence (Reg. No. D0019-02) on hand. The Agency will consider any effect of the proposed abstraction on influenced flows with respect to this licence review application.
- Appendix 1 (attached) provides information in relation to the Article 27 process under the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, as amended.

For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning matters, please contact [eiaplanning@epa.ie](mailto:eiaplanning@epa.ie).

Yours faithfully,



Tara Gillen  
Senior Programme Officer  
Water, Energy and Business Support Programme  
Office of Environmental Sustainability  
An Clár um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil  
Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



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**Appendix 1: Article 27 process (European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, S.I. 126 of 2011, amended by the European Union (Waste Directive) Regulations 2020).**

The EPA supports the efforts by developers of large-scale projects to maximise the volume of excess material beneficially reused as by-product rather than being discarded and managed as waste. Large amounts of excess soil and stone material can be generated by large construction and excavation projects.

It is noted that a Construction Waste and Byproduct Management Plan (CWBMP) has been prepared for the Proposed Project (Annex C of EIAR Appendix A5.1). It is important that the CWBMP is comprehensive in that it identifies the quantity and nature of all the soil and stone anticipated to be generated or required by the project, with a clear plan for how that material will be managed as a by-product or a waste. In addition, the material should be identified as either greenfield or brownfield so that it can be managed appropriately. See further detail below.

To be regarded as a by-product and not a waste, notified material must satisfy all the following conditions listed in Regulation 27(1)(a) to (d) of European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, S.I. 126 of 2011 as amended (the Regulations):

- (a) Further use of the substance or object is certain;
- (b) The substance or object can be used directly without any further processing other than normal industrial practice;
- (c) The substance or object is produced as an integral part of a production process;
- (d) Further use is lawful in that the substance or object fulfils all relevant product, environmental and health protection requirements for the specific use and will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts.

Once the material producer (or economic operator) has carried out the necessary assessment and decided that a substance or object is a by-product, in accordance with Article 27(2) a notification must be made to the Agency who will provide a determination as to whether the material is a by-product or a waste. Notifications should be accompanied by the necessary documentation to demonstrate compliance with the four by-product conditions (listed above). Guidance is available on the EPA website: [By-products Regulation 27 | Environmental Protection Agency](#).

The National By-Product Criteria for Greenfield soil and stone (BP-N002/2024) published under Regulation 27(7) in 2024 negate the need to make a by-product notification to the EPA for determination for that material, where that material is unquestionably greenfield. Instead, the production of greenfield soil and stone as by-product that complies with the National criteria is required to be registered. Registration details are displayed on the publicly available register published on the Agency's website at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

Please note that the Agency is currently developing guidance on the management of brownfield soil and stone as by-product, and the guidance will incorporate a screening framework for PFAS. Uisce Éireann has been consulted on the development of this guidance.

Whether excess material is being exported off-site as a by-product to be used elsewhere or being imported as a by-product for use in this project, it must be either registered as greenfield soil and stone by-product on the EPA Register meeting the criteria in the National Decision or (for non-greenfield material) notified for determination by the EPA.

More information on by-product is available on the EPA website at this link: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/licensing/waste/by-products-regulation-27/>