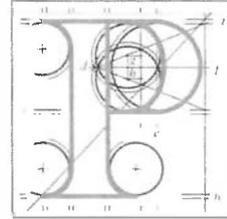


Our Case Number: ACP-323980-25

Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Port Omna Beo
c/o Mona Zirngibl
An Gairdín
St. Brigid's Road
Portumna

Date: 04 March 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 recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

The Commission will revert to you in due course with regard to the 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.

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

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Submission Objecting to the Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region –
Shannon to Dublin Water Supply Project (Ref. PA92.323980)
Applicant: Uisce Éireann

Submitted by:
Port Omna Beo
An Gairdín
St. Brigid's Road
Portumna

To An Coimisiún Pleanála,

We, Port Omna Beo, wish to lodge this formal objection to the above-referenced planning application for the Water Supply Project, specifically the proposal to abstract water from the Parteen Basin on the River Shannon in order to supply water to the Eastern and Midlands Region.

While we acknowledge the stated need to address water security, we are deeply concerned that the proposed scheme poses unacceptable risks to biodiversity, protected habitats and ecological integrity in the River Shannon and surrounding areas. Parteen Basin and the Lower Shannon are internationally important habitats.

The Parteen Basin and the Lower River Shannon form part of the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which supports a wide range of wildlife and habitats protected under EU nature law. Any abstraction of water from this sensitive ecosystem has the potential to disturb water levels, hydrology, and seasonal flow patterns that many species depend on.

Impact on fish migration and aquatic life

The River Shannon is a crucial habitat for migratory fish species such as salmon and eels, which rely on natural flow conditions to complete their life cycles. Local conservation groups and research have highlighted ongoing concerns about how flow alterations and existing infrastructure (like weirs and hydroelectric facilities) already impact fish movement. Further abstraction, even at a level described as a small percentage, could exacerbate these pressures, with knock-on effects for biodiversity and local fisheries.

Uncertainty about cumulative and long term ecological effects

The planning documents and Environmental Impact Assessment materials do not, in our view, convincingly demonstrate that abstraction will have no adverse effect on the Natura 2000 network and associated species. Evidence from other large water resource projects shows that changes in flow and habitat conditions can have delayed or subtle impacts that only emerge over time.

In addition, increasingly frequent and prolonged drought periods, linked to climate change, will place further stress on river and lake systems. During drought conditions, even modest levels of abstraction can represent a much greater proportion of available flow, potentially compounding ecological pressures at the very time ecosystems are most vulnerable.

The recent algae bloom in various locations on Lough Derg is a clear example of how delicate the ecological balance is. Algal growth is closely linked to water temperature, flow levels and nutrient concentration. Lower water levels and reduced flow can increase stagnation and nutrient concentration, creating conditions that favour blooms. This demonstrates how even slight alterations in hydrology can have visible and immediate ecological consequences.

As a community group concerned with nature conservation, we believe that the precautionary principle must be applied, particularly within designated conservation areas where the legal standard requires certainty that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

Wetland and shoreline habitat sensitivity

The shores and wetlands around Parteen Basin support a mosaic of plants, insects, birds and aquatic organisms. Interruption to natural water levels, even temporarily during construction or permanently during abstraction, risks degrading these habitats, reducing biodiversity and undermining the ecological character of the river basin.

Alternatives not sufficiently prioritised

We believe the applicant has not sufficiently explored or demonstrated that all reasonable alternatives (such as further reducing leakage, investing in local smaller-scale water supplies, or prioritising demand-management) have been exhausted before opting for a major inter-regional water transfer that could harm biodiversity.

In summary, Port Omna Beo respectfully requests that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed abstraction at Parteen Basin on biodiversity and nature-conservation grounds.

Yours faithfully,
Port Omna Beo

Submitted on behalf of Port Omna Beo by:
Mona Zirngibl
Communications Officer