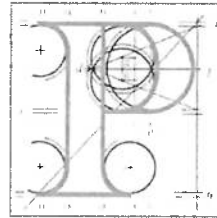


Our Case Number: ACP-324272-26



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)
c/o Jennifer O'Connor
2nd Floor, Menapia House
Drinagh Business Park
Drinagh
Co. Wexford
Y35 RF29

Date: 15 July 2026

Re: Proposed TEN-T Priority Route Improvement Project
all routed along the electoral divisions of Dooish, Stranorlar, Convoy, Lettermore, Magheraboy,
Letterkenny Rural, Manorcunningham, Kinraigy, Treantaghmucklagh, Feddyglass, Clonleugh
North, and Clonleugh South, all in County Donegal

Dear Sir / Madam,

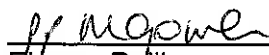
An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it or approved it with modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at laps@pleanala.ie.

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

HA02C

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1800 275 175
www.pleanala.ie
communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Muirin Gowen

From: LAPS
Sent: Tuesday 7 July 2026 12:32
To: Eimear Reilly
Subject: FW: HA05E 324272 - Donegal County Council
Attachments: MARA Submission Ten T Route Donegal.pdf

From: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 7 July 2026 12:29
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: FW: HA05E 324272 - Donegal County Council

From: MARA Consultation <consultation@mara.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 7 July 2026 12:24
To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject: HA05E 324272 - Donegal County Council

You don't often get email from consultation@mara.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Good Afternoon,

I refer to the above and attach herewith submission on behalf of The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

I would be obliged if you could acknowledge receipt of same.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer.

Jennifer O' Connor
Analyst
MUL & Planning Advisory Directorate

☎ 053 – 910 5756 ✉ jennifer.oconnor@mara.gov.ie

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí (MARA)
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

An Dara Urlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Gnó Dhraighní,
Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29.

2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29.

Strategic Infrastructure Division,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

Date: 07th July 2026

Your Reference: HA05E.324272

Re: Application by Donegal County Council to An Coimisiún Pleanála for approval under the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended) of the Ten-T Priority Route Improvement Project, Donegal.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We acknowledge receipt of the Prescribed Notice under Section 51(3) (b) of the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended) from Donegal County Council, received by the Marine Regulatory Authority (MARA), on the 15/05/2026 in relation to the Ten-T Priority Route Improvement Project located within the townlands of Dooish, Stranorlar, Convoy, Lettermore, Magherboy, Letterkenny Rural, Manorcunnigham, Kincairgy, Treantaghmucklagh, Feddyglass, Clonleugh North and Clonleigh South.

MARA as a prescribed body

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) welcomes the notification of the proposed project at this stage of the process. MARA is a prescribed body by virtue of Section 279A of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the purposes of Part XXI, and as set out in Schedule 1 of the Planning and Development (Maritime Development) Regulations, 2023.

As you may be aware MARA's functions, are set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021, (MAP Act) and extend to the entire maritime area, from high water of ordinary tides to the outer limit of the continental shelf, encompassing the State's territorial seas and Exclusive Economic Zone. Our comments herein relate only to development within the maritime area. Furthermore, our comments should not be interpreted as inferring any aspect of assessment of the project which is the remit of An Coimisiún Pleanála and the Minister respectively. Therefore, the elements of the project which are above the high water mark (HWM) are not within MARA's functions and therefore our comments included herein should not be interpreted to refer to any of the project above the high water mark.

Maritime Area Consent (MAC)

The Ten-T Priority Route Improvement Project involves a substantial site area much of which is terrestrial and not within the maritime area. The overall scheme includes 63km of Active Travel Network, 23km of new urban bypasses, 4km of road renewal and 14km of new National Road. However, the project includes a proposed multi-span bridge within the tidal reach of the River Swilly in Letterkenny. A Maritime Area Consent (MAC) -

address:

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri / Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
An Dara Uillár, Teach Menapia, Pairc Ghnó Chraighní, Draigheach, Loch
Garman, Y35RF29.
2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford,
Y35RF29.

email:

info@mara.gov.ie

website:

www.maritimeregulator.ie

Reference Number; MAC20240012 was granted under Section 76 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 for this area to facilitate the main crossing of the River Swilly. The portion of the proposed development which lies within the maritime area comprises of 0.182Ha and includes a 23m wide bridge deck accommodating both a dual-carriageway roadway and a segregated active travel facility. The permitted maritime usage authorised under this MAC was for the purposes of *'The construction, use, operation and maintenance of a bridge structure, including all associated decommissioning, demolition, rehabilitation and any other works required on foot of any Roads Act 1993 approval relating to the infrastructure'*.

The MAC specifies the usage and the spatial representation (map) of the consent area. Any change to the spatial extent can only be done by a material amendment to the MAC by MARA in advance of any application. MARA can confirm that the usage and spatial extent consented to in MAC Reference Number; MAC20240012 corresponds to the site area of the proposed River Swilly Crossing as detailed in the plans and particulars submitted to An Commisiún Pleanála for Roads Act approval.

The term of the MAC is for 120 years from the MAC Commencement Date of the 28th of November 2025. MARA can also confirm that an application for approval under Section 51 of the Roads Act 1993 was sought within the required 24 months of the date of commencement of the MAC in accordance with Condition 5.1 of the same. The following particulars relating to the relevant MAC (MAC20240012) may also be worthy of consideration by An Commisiún;

- [MAC20240012 - Summary Overview](#)
- [Authorised MAC20240012](#)
- [MAC-Map-MAC20240012.pdf](#)
- [MAC-Report](#)

The applicant (Donegal County Council) has set out that the proposed bridge crossing at the River Swilly subject to the above referenced MAC is the sole element of the scheme that is situated within state owned maritime area. The Council are seeking to CPO the remaining lands proposed for the crossings of the minor tidal tributaries which are privately owned. The lands proposed for CPO have been detailed on plans and particulars submitted with the Roads Act approval.

Rehabilitation Schedule:

In accordance with Section 96(1) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, the holder of a MAC shall, before expiration (if any) of the MAC, rehabilitate that part of the maritime area subject of the MAC, and any other part of the maritime area, adversely affected by the maritime usage the subject of the MAC. The purpose of the Rehabilitation Schedule is to assist in the effective management of State Resources. Section 96(4) of the Act specifies the particulars that should be included in a rehabilitation schedule and sets out how the Applicant will discharge their rehabilitation obligations. As the subject MAC was consented under Section 76 of the MAP Act, MARA were responsible for reviewing and

the subsequent approval of the Rehabilitation Schedule which is attached in Appendix 2 of the authorised MAC referenced and linked above.

Relevant Maritime Area Consents:

The MAP Act requires MARA to licence marine usage activities as specified in Schedule 7 of the MAP Act, (not being a maritime usage which requires development permission). MARA cannot issue a MUL for which an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. Where an EIA is required, a MAC must be applied for. MARA undertakes an appropriate assessment screening on all applications for a MUL and an appropriate assessment where required.

MARA note that there are no other existing Maritime Area Consents, or Maritime Usage Licences in the immediate vicinity of the subject site. There is one existing Foreshore License; FS004845 granted to Letterkenny Town Council for the laying and maintaining a sewage outfall pipe on foreshore on the River Swilly at Ballyraine to the south of the consented MAC. The license is active and has a term of 99 years.

To assist in the cumulative assessment of the Roads Act approval the following links to Maritime Area Consents, Maritime Usage Licences and Foreshore Act Consents may also be of relevance for your consideration;

- MAC and MUL applications can be found here; [Applications & Determinations - MARA - Maritime Area Regulatory Authority](#).
- Foreshore notices can be found here; [Search Foreshore Notices](#)

Further advice and guidance on any of the above can be found on MARA's website; [MARA - Maritime Area Regulatory Authority](#). A consultation by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority under this section shall not prejudice the performance by it of any of its other functions. If you have any queries or require further information in relation to this matter, please contact the undersigned in the MUL & Planning Advisory Directorate of MARA directly. I would be grateful if receipt of this correspondence, could be formally acknowledged by email to the following consultation@mara.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh Lennon
Senior Marine Planning Advisor
MUL & Planning Advisory Directorate