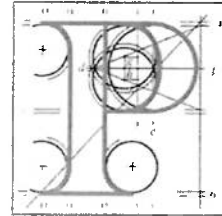


Our Case Number: ACP-324584-26



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

HSE National Environmental Health Service
Ashbourne Hall
Ashbourne Business Park
Dock Road
Limerick
V94 NPEO

Date: 01 October 2026

Re: Proposed Limerick Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade & Regional Bioresource Centre
off Dock Road, Ballykeeffe, Corkanree and Courtbrack (townlands), Limerick

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 a copy of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for inspection on the Commission's website at the following link:

<https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/324584>

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,

Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

PA09

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Baile Átha Cliath 1
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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Lauren Griffin

From: SIDS
Sent: Monday 28 September 2026 10:47
To: Lauren Griffin
Subject: FW: SID Application with an EIAR for the proposed Limerick Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade & Regional Bioresource Centre. EH 6239.
Attachments: WWT_Limerick.pdf

From: Arlene Ward <arlene.ward@hse.ie>
Sent: Monday 28 September 2026 10:45
To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject: SID Application with an EIAR for the proposed Limerick Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade & Regional Bioresource Centre. EH 6239.

You don't often get email from arlene.ward@hse.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.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find the attached response in relation to the above application.
If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact this department.

Kindest Regards

Arlene Ward

Sláinte Chomhshaoil | FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte Comhshaoil

Environmental Health Officer | HSE National Environmental Health Service

FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte Comhshaoil, Halla Ashbourne, Páirc Gnó Ashbourne, Bóthar an Duga, Luimneach V94 NPEO

HSE National Environmental Health Service, Ashbourne Hall , Ashbourne Business Park , Dock Road, Limerick V94 NPEO

061 461502 | 087 388 2910 | arlene.ward@hse.ie



"Tá an fhaisnéis sa ríomhphost seo (ceangaltáin san áireamh) faoi rún. Baineann sé leis an té ar seoladh chuige amháin agus tá sé ar intinn go bhfaighfidh siadsan amháin é agus gurb iadsan amháin a dhéanfaidh breithniú air. Más rud é nach tusa an duine ar leis é, tá cosc iomlán ar aon fhaisnéis atá ann, a úsáid, a chraobhscaoileadh, a scaipeadh, a nochtadh, a fhoilsiú, ná a chóipeáil. Seans gurb iad tuairimí pearsanta an údar atá san ríomhphost agus nach tuairimí FSS iad.

Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúl don Deasc Seirbhísí ECT ar an nguthán ag [+353 818 300300](tel:+353818300300) nó ar an ríomhphost chuig service.desk@hse.ie agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

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HSE Submission Report

National Environmental Health Service Consultation Report

Date: 25/09/2026

EHIS reference: 6239

Applicant: Uisce Éireann

Location: Limerick

Report to: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Type of consultation: SID – EIAR - Wastewater Treatment Capacity Upgrade

Planning reference: 323900 – SID application

Introduction

The following HSE Departments were notified of the consultation request for the Planning EIAR Application on the 27/08/2026:

- Emergency Planning – Paul Brophy/ Sean Adair
- National Capital Estates Office – Regional AND
- Director of National Health Protection – Eamonn O' Moore
- REO Mid-West - Sandra Broderick

This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the proposed development as outlined in the EIAR and the adequacy of the EIAR from the Environmental Health viewpoint.

Description of the Proposed development and of the Physical Environment

As outlined in the EIAR:

The proposed development involves major upgrades to the existing Limerick WWTP and the creation of a Regional Bioresource Centre (RBC), along with a new stormwater storage tank at Corcanree Pumping Station (PS). Both sites are located in an industrial area along Dock Road, about 3 km southwest of Limerick City Centre, adjacent to the River Shannon/Shannon Estuary.

The components of the development are:

a. Stormwater Storage (Corcanree Pumping Station)

- Construction of a new 12,500 m³ stormwater storage tank (30–40 m diameter, 10–15 m depth) to manage excess flows during storm events.
- Upgrades to pumping capacity and flow management to reduce untreated discharges to the Shannon Estuary.
- Advanced cleaning and overflow systems to ensure operational efficiency and environmental compliance.



b. Wastewater Treatment Capacity Upgrade

- Retention of existing inlet works, and construction of a new inlet works for increased flow (up to 1,110 l/s).
- Addition of a new Aerobic Granular Sludge (AGS) process stream (Nereda technology) to operate in parallel with the existing Conventional Activated Sludge (CAS) process.
- Upgrades to screening, grit removal, odour control, and final effluent outfall systems.
- Increased treatment capacity to accommodate projected population and industrial growth (up to 325,000 Population Equivalent (PE) over 25 years).

c. Regional Bioresource Centre (RBC)

- Upgrade of the existing sludge hub to a regional centre capable of treating up to 50 tonnes dry solids (TDS) per day.
- Facilities for receiving, blending, thickening, and dewatering both indigenous and imported sludges.
- Installation of a new Thermal Hydrolysis Process (THP) and Anaerobic Digestion (AD) tanks for enhanced sludge treatment and biogas production.
- Biogas reuse via Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units, supporting energy self-sufficiency and reduced carbon footprint.
- New odour control systems, liquor treatment processes, and expanded storage for digested sludge.

d. Supporting Infrastructure and Environmental Measures

- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) for surface water management, including permeable paving, petrol interceptors, and swales.
- Landscaping and planting to integrate the development into the local environment.
- Enhanced site access, security, and operational monitoring systems.

Assessment of the principle and description of the project

The National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) is satisfied that the EIAR provides an adequate description of the proposed project.

Assessment of Public Consultation and the Non-Technical Summary

The National Environmental Health Service found A 4-week public consultation period was established, commencing on 3rd November 2025, along with email and letter drop to residents and businesses. The EHS emphasises the need for early and meaningful public consultation in the development process. The non-technical summary was present and covered the range of topics required.

Population and Human Health

The specific legislation relevant to human health protection is set out within the technical EIAR chapters relevant to each pathway (noise, air, soil, water, etc).

The immediate area around the WWTP and Corcanree Pump Station (PS) is predominantly commercial and industrial, with no dwellings within approximately 600 meters of the WWTP site and 300 meters of the Corcanree PS. A Traveller Halting Site is located at the junction of Dock Road and Greenpark Road, about 300 meters from Corcanree PS. This is the closest residential receptor. It is noted that there are significant proposed residential developments, with planning permission been granted for large residential projects (e.g., 371 units at the former Greenpark Racecourse, 384 units



nearby, and a nursing home), which will increase the number of sensitive residential receptors in the future.

Several primary and secondary schools, as well as tertiary colleges, are present in the broader study area, but none are within 250 meters of the proposed development.

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

The construction phase of the development creates the potential for temporary emissions which may have a negative impact on the environment and on the health of local residents.

The applicant should assess the impacts of construction works, having particular regard to:

- Waste Management,
- Pest Control Management,
- Dust Impacts,
- Excessive Noise/Vibration
- Emissions to Surface/Groundwater

All sensitive receptors in the vicinity of construction works should be identified, and measures implemented to ensure they are protected.

The NEHS has considered the Construction and Environmental Management Plan and is of the opinion that there will be adequate protection of Public and Environmental Health during the construction phase providing:

- I. the mitigation and controls are implemented in full,
- II. there is a dedicated person to deal with complaints and liaise with members of the public,
- III. the effectiveness of environmental controls are monitored and reviewed and increased mitigation/corrective action is taken where required.

Noise and Vibration

Based on scaled development drawings and Irish Grid References, as detailed in Table 10-7 of the EIAR the following sensitive receptors have been identified:

- SR7 Dock Road halting site - 350m (Corcanree PS)
- SR6 Office property - 400m (WWTP)
- SR1 Residential property - 480m (WWTP)
- SR5 Amenity Park area - 500m (Corcanree PS)
- SR3 Residential property - 570m (Corcanree PS)
- SR4 Residential property - 630m (Corcanree PS)

The largest noise and vibration impact of the proposed development will occur during the construction phase due to the operation of various plant machinery, CFA piling and HGV movement to, from and around the site. The largest impacts occur during the construction phase: **49 dB LAeq,1h** noise at SR3 due to Corcanree PS works, and **<0.1 mm/s PPV** from CFA piling at 50 m, both assessed as not significant at receptors given distances and criteria. However, there are measures outlined in the EIAR to mitigate this such as:

- Restricted construction activities during daytime - restricted to the following - Monday to Friday: 07:00–19:00, Saturday: 08:00–14:00 and No night-time works except in exceptional circumstances
- Plant and equipment management,
- Site management and layout,



- Staff awareness and training
- Monitoring – daily noise readings.
- Community engagement - It is noted that a dedicated community liaison person will be appointed, with their phone and email made available to the local community.

The EIAR and CEMP outline mitigation and monitoring measures for the control of noise and vibration during the construction phase such as above and operational phase as per EPA Guidance (NG4) and S.I. No. 787/2005.

It is recommended that the planning authority include the mitigation and monitoring measures together with community liaison and complaints procedures as a condition of planning permission should it be granted to protect residents from a noise and or vibration nuisance and in turn, protect public health.

Air

There is the potential for a number of emissions to the atmosphere during the construction phase of the proposed development. These include earthworks, construction activities and vehicle movements.

The most likely air quality impact is short-term dust emissions during construction, which are not significant if best practice mitigation is followed.

In the operational phase this facility should monitor emissions in accordance with the license. During operational phase it is noted from the EIAR that with ammonia gas, the emissions are very small and have an imperceptible impact on ambient air quality. With the Combined Heat and Power (CHP), Boiler and Flare, both have capacities less than 1 MW, and emissions are not significant. The flare is used only as a backup and operates infrequently. Operational phase impacts are imperceptible.

If the control measure outlined in the EIAR are implemented in full, it is the opinion of the NEHS, that this will be adequate adherence to ensure air quality limits are not exceeded.

Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The potential impact of the proposed development on surface water and groundwater has been assessed and where necessary, recommendations for mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate any potential impacts have been made within the various chapters of the EIAR.

The main waterbodies in the vicinity (Limerick Dock, Upper Shannon Estuary, Maigue Estuary) are currently classified as 'Poor' or 'Moderate' status under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) for 2019–2024. Reasons include poor aquatic flora, low dissolved oxygen, and elevated orthophosphate levels. The existing WWTP has limited stormwater storage, resulting in frequent uncontrolled stormwater overflows (213 spill events per year), which do not meet Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) standards and contribute to water.

There are existing surface water issues in the area, primarily related to water quality (WFD status), frequent stormwater overflows, and historical compliance problems. However, the proposed WWTP upgrade and associated stormwater management measures are expected to significantly improve the situation, resulting in localised and



controlled impacts, improved compliance, and a long-term positive effect on the water environment. Construction-phase risks are short-term and manageable with best-practice mitigation.

The sites are in high flood risk zones but are protected by embankments and flood defences. The development is subject to a Justification Test and is considered appropriate in flood risk terms, with no increase in flood risk on-site or elsewhere.

The main groundwater issues relate to temporary construction-phase risks from deep excavation and dewatering, with potential for localised drawdown and sediment mobilisation. The CEMP and EIAR has detailed mitigation measures for this. It is noted that no significant operational groundwater issues are anticipated due to the engineered drainage and containment systems in place.

The EIAR states that the environmental monitoring programme for the development will include groundwater level monitoring and groundwater quality monitoring through statutory planning consent, EPA licensing, detailed environmental management plans and operational monitoring.

All mitigation measures identified to protect surface and ground water should be implemented in full.

Pest Control

The applicant should implement mitigation measures to control vermin and pests on the site and should continue to monitor/bait for rodent and pest activity, where deemed necessary throughout the site.

Cumulative impacts

The National Environmental Health Service notes the assessment of cumulative impacts throughout the EIAR and is satisfied that the projects listed in the EIAR were assessed for the potential to give rise to cumulative impacts.

Climate

The EIAR outlines; the proposed upgrade and expansion of the Limerick Wastewater Treatment Plant and Regional Bioresource Centre present minor, well-mitigated climate risks and significant climate benefits. The project will reduce the carbon intensity of wastewater treatment, support renewable energy generation, and enhance climate resilience, all while aligning with national and EU climate policy. Residual climate impacts are considered not significant in EIA terms.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Shanahan'.

Environmental Health Officer



***Environment National Service Unit
HSE National Environmental Health Service***

James Cahill

***A/Principal Environmental Health Officer
HSE National Environmental Health Service***