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Our Ref: 2139 JPK/SG

9th January 2014

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,
44 Kildare Street
Dublin 2

**RE: Galway Harbour Company
Galway Harbour Extension
Direct Application to An Bord Pleanála
in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development**

Dear Minister,

Galway Harbour Company hereby gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Bord Pleanála for permission for the development of an extension to Galway Harbour at Renmore and Townparks Townlands and on lands to be reclaimed from the foreshore and the sea in Galway Bay to the south of the existing Galway Enterprise Park which contains a Seveso site.

Access to the development will be via the existing access at the junction of Lough Atalia Road and Bóthar na Long. The proposed development will include the relocation of the majority of the existing harbour related activities and businesses from the existing dock area to the new deep water berths, quays, jetties and yards to be located at the harbour extension.

The proposed development is largely in an area of Galway Bay which is designated as a candidate Special Area of Conservation [cSAC] and a Special Protection Area [SPA] and includes works on Lough Atalia Road Rail Bridge [a protected structure].

Directors: L.E. Waldron (Chairman) R.F. Tobin (Managing Director) B.J. Downes M.F. Garrick J.P. Kelly
D. Grehan E. Connaughton (Company Secretary)
M. McDonnell C. McGovern B. Mulligan

Associates: T. Cannon P. Cloonan D. Conneran B. Gallagher B. Heaney E. McPartlin A. O'Brien S. Tinnelly

The proposed development will include:-

- (i) quay walls, breakwaters and wave walls to create commercial quays and a deep water docking facility, extending southwards into Galway Bay
- (ii) dredging to create a new approach channel to the commercial quays and the deep water docking facility berths
- (iii) reclamation of approx 27 ha from the foreshore and sea bed
- (iv) development of the reclaimed lands and redevelopment of part of the adjacent Galway Harbour Enterprise Park lands for Harbour related business
- (v) marina on the western side
- (vi) fishing quays, slipway for a lifeboat station and a nautical centre on the eastern side
- (vii) a twin track freight rail link from the existing Galway to Dublin rail line to the commercial quays, including embankments, rail over-bridge to existing service road and noise abatement screening
- (viii) the construction of oil and bitumen transfer pipelines to the existing oil and bitumen tank farms on the Galway Harbour Enterprise Park and the provision of fire water storage facilities. This falls within the remit of EU Directive (96/82 EC) on the control of Major Accident Hazards, known as the SEVESO II Directive
- (ix) harbour related buildings, including Port Operations Office (4 storeys); Harbour Management Warehouse (single storey); Marina Office (single storey); Passenger Terminal (single storey); and ancillary car parking and site services, including 3 No. ESB sub-stations, demolition of 1 No. ESB sub-station, 3 No. Control Offices and Oil Terminal Water Pumphouse and a helicopter pad for search and rescue purposes.
- (x) the construction / improvement of access roads including the horizontal and vertical realignment of the road under Lough Atalia Road Rail Bridge [a protected structure] and realignment and improvements including traffic lights at Dock Road / Bóthar na Long / Galway Harbour Enterprise Park Access Road junction (adjacent to Harbour Hotel)
- (xi) the provision of landscaping and amenity areas, including replacement of the previously permitted amenity strip from the southern seaward boundary of the Galway Harbour Enterprise Park to form an amenity link from the marina to the nautical centre.
- (xii) the proposal includes for all associated temporary and permanent site development [including service roads / realignment of roads and underground works], landscape works [including public lighting and services] and activities to facilitate the construction of the development.

The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement [EIS] and a Natura Impact Statement [NIS]. Elements of the development will require a Waste Licence, a Waste Water Discharge Licence and a Foreshore Licence / Lease.

A ten year permission is being sought.

An electronic copy of the application and a hard copy of the Non Technical Summary are enclosed for your information.

Please note that the Board may, in respect of an application for permission decide to:-

- A. i) Grant permission, or
- ii) Make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
- i) Grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind).

and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions,

Or

- B. Refuse to grant permission.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (the Board) 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 relating to:-

- i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development,
- ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development,
- iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site

if carried out.

Any submissions / observations must be received by the Board not later than 5:30pm on 11th March 2014.

Yours sincerely,


John P. Kelly
Director

