

Eamonn Waldron

From: Cliona OBrien - (DAHG) [Cliona.OBrien@ahg.gov.ie]
Sent: 05 October 2015 15:11
To: Eamonn Waldron
Cc: Manager Dau; Niall Redmond - (DAHG); John Fitzgerald - (DAHG)
Subject: RE: Galway Harbour Extension -Communication from An Bord Pleanala

Mr Waldron,

Thank you for your email and voicemail message of October 1 in relation to the correspondence you received from An Bord Pleanala concerning Galway Harbour Company's proposal to extend Galway Harbour.

In relation to your request for a meeting to discuss the procedures, protocols and timescales for agreeing proposals, these are a matter for the Board to advise you on. It is noted that the Board has stated that it will also be seeking the Department's views on your initial proposals for compensatory measures, following this 8 week period. The Board has also advised the Department that meetings with the applicant at this point in the process are a matter for its own discretion.

At this point in time, the Department is still considering the Board's findings in relation to the effects of the proposed development on the European sites.

Should a meeting within the 8 week timeframe be feasible, the Department would need to first receive a written proposal from the applicant, setting out its proposed compensatory measures.

As also advised by the Board, the Department recommends that the applicant refer to the Commission's Guidance on Article 6 (4) which sets out the principles on which compensatory measures should be based, in order to develop this proposal, as well as to its guidance documents on Article 6(3).

As you may recall, this guidance has previously been brought to your attention in pre-planning observations, as well as in observations the Department provided to the Board and it sets out criteria for designing compensatory measures, demonstrating their effectiveness, technical feasibility, location, etc. Please also be advised that the Department also typically requires documentation to be submitted two weeks before a meeting, to allow time for its review before discussions.

Lastly, please also be advised that any observations provided by the Department at this point are without prejudice to those that may be expressed by Minister in due course, pursuant to S177 of the Planning and Development Acts as amended.

Kind regards
Cliona O'Brien

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