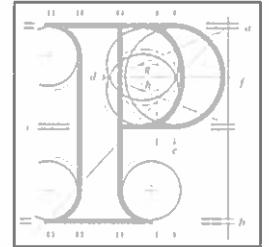


Our Ref: 61.PA0033
P.A.Reg.Ref:

Your Ref: JPK 7476-04-04

An Bord Pleanála



John P. Kelly
Tobin Consulting Engineers
Fairgreen House
Fairgreen Road
Galway

9th September 2016

**Re: Galway Harbour Extension - compensatory measures.
Renmore and Townparks Townlands, Galway**

Dear Sir,

Further to the above matter and the proposed preliminary compensatory measures submitted by Tobins on your behalf in November 2015, I would advise you that An Bord Pleanála referred your proposals to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG), specifically the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), for comment on the 2nd February 2016.

An Bord Pleanála received a response on the 27th May 2016. Subsequent to this representatives of An Bord Pleanála held a meeting with the NPWS on the 28th June 2016 to clarify matters outlined in the NPWS submission on your initial proposals for compensatory measures.

I attach for your information a copy of the Department's response dated 27th May 2016 and the written record of the meeting between representatives of An Bord Pleanála and the NPWS.

Following your consideration of the matters set out in these attached documents it is proposed that a tripartite meeting will be arranged involving representatives of An Bord Pleanála, the NPWS and yourselves to discuss and expand upon the request, in terms of approach to data gathering and details required in relation to the proposed compensatory measures and associated requirements including issues of timing, nature and extent of compensatory measures, responsibility, procedures, further survey, etc. Pursuant to this meeting (or meetings as necessary) An Bord Pleanála will require that you consider and develop further a more detailed and comprehensive package of compensatory measures addressing all the issues raised relating to the Tobins preliminary submission.

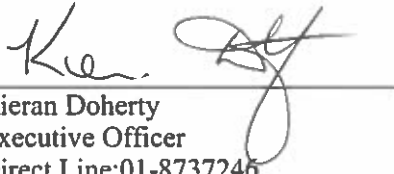
The DAHG have in their submission identified additional issues to those required to be addressed by An Bord Pleanála and have queried the necessity for some of the proposed compensatory measures which themselves may raise additional ecological and environmental issues. It is suggested that these matters could usefully form part of the discussions held at the forthcoming tripartite meeting.

At this stage in An Bord Pleanála's consideration of this strategic infrastructure planning application, and given the role of the DAHG in the Article 6(4) process as set out in Irish legislation (see for example sections 177AA to 177AC of the Planning and Development Act), An Bord Pleanála considers it necessary and appropriate to facilitate a joint and coordinated approach to the issue of the provision of the compensatory measures considered necessary in this case. This is in accordance with the guidance contained in EC document Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC and in order to expedite this matter in the interests of all concerned and the coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

The documents referred to above, in addition to An Bord Pleanála's initial Direction to yourselves dated 29th September 2015 (also attached) will form the basis of the tripartite meeting. An agenda for this meeting will be prepared and will be circulated to all parties in advance. The purpose of the meeting is to narrow the scope of details required to facilitate advancing the proposed compensation measures to phase 2 of the process by identifying and seeking agreement of the appropriate compensatory measures and means to achieve them. The meeting will be chaired by a representative of An Bord Pleanála.

Once you have had the opportunity to consider the matters set out in this letter and attached documents I would be grateful if you would contact the undersigned in order that arrangements can be put in place for the tripartite meeting within the next four weeks, if possible. It would be of assistance when doing this that you provide an indication of the number of persons likely to be attending.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Doherty', written over a horizontal line.

Kieran Doherty
Executive Officer
Direct Line:01-8737246

Encls.

ADHOC/PA0033/55