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Bord  
Pleanála

**Board Direction  
PL61.PA0033**

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At a meeting of all available Board Members held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, the Board Member with carriage of the case gave an overview of progress on the application to date. Also in attendance at the meeting were Director of Planning (R. Kenny) and Assistant Director of Planning (P. Green) who gave an overview of the progress since September 2015 in relation to the development by the applicant - in consultation with ABP and the NPWS - of proposed ecological compensatory measures.

The Board then considered:

- The Report from the applicant Galway Harbour Company entitled 'Proposed Compensatory Measures (Version 2.3B) in relation to the proposed Galway Harbour Extension (received by ABP on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017)
- Letter received from National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht received by ABP on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- Report by ABP consultant ecologist Daniel Bastreri (of Marine Planning Matters Environment Consulting Ltd.) dated September 2017.
- Paper to the Board dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October by the Director of Planning

At a further meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the Board further deliberated on the above matters and decided to request the applicant to **proceed to 'stage 2' of the preparation of compensatory measures.**

Letter to applicant generally as follows:

The Board is satisfied that the emerging proposals submitted to ABP (received on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017) appear to be capable of producing a meaningful set of conservation measures that could provide adequate compensation within Galway Bay Complex SAC for the potential loss associated with the Galway Harbour Extension.

Whereas ABP had identified a requirement to compensate solely in relation to identified habitats affected by the proposed Harbour Extension, it is noted that the applicant has chosen to also include in the scope of the emerging compensatory proposals measures relating to the previously completed Galway Harbour Enterprise Park. This approach is considered acceptable.

With respect to the previous Board letter of September 29<sup>th</sup> 2015, the applicant is therefore invited to proceed to Phase 2 of preparation of 'compensatory measures' whereby a detailed proposal is to be prepared and submitted to ABP for consideration.

In developing the proposal, you are advised to have regard to the guidance available in the European Commission (DG Environment) Guidance Document entitled: "Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC" (2007/2012), as may be updated. This document emphasises the need to achieve a practical and robust set of measures, including comprehensive consideration of implementation and long term management and monitoring.

We are also attaching for your information the report by ABP consultant ecologist Daniel Bastreri (of Marine Planning Matters Environment Consulting Ltd.) dated September 2017 in relation to your emerging proposals. This report is provided on a without prejudice basis bearing in mind the Board has not yet made any decision in relation to the final outcome in this case.

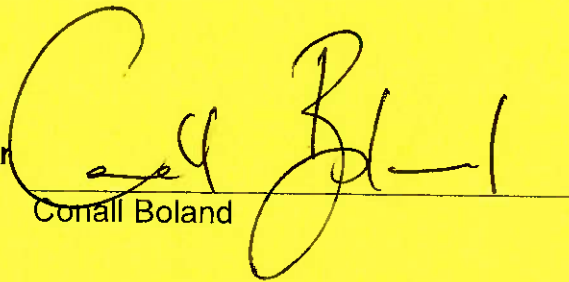
You are requested to respond to ABP within 3 weeks of the date of this letter outlining a draft programme for preparation of your detailed proposals. In this

regard you are invited to include opportunities for further interim consultation meetings with ABP and the NPWS.

The Board may require you provide additional information in relation to the potential environmental impacts of the proposed compensatory measures, in order to complete the environmental impact assessment of the overall SID case.

To SID Section: the Board considered it appropriate, in the interests of transparency, to provide a brief update to the parties to the SID case as to the current stage of the case. This should be notified to the participants and placed on the Board website, and the applicant's project specific website.

Board Member

  
Corall Boland

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017

*Please also attach copy of NPWS letter of 12 Sept. 2017 in the correspondence with the applicant. Corall Boland 5/10/2017*