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**From:** Kieran Doherty  
**Sent:** Tuesday 26 September 2017 17:34  
**To:** Lianna Slowey  
**Subject:** FW: Your ref: 61.PA0033  
**Attachments:** PA0033 obs.pdf; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

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**From:** Manager Dau [mailto:Manager.Dau@chg.gov.ie]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 12 September 2017 17:23  
**To:** SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>  
**Cc:** Kieran Doherty <K.Doherty@pleanala.ie>  
**Subject:** Your ref: 61.PA0033

Your ref: 61.PA0033

Dear Kieran,

Please find attached correspondence from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding the above.

Kind regards,

Yvonne Nolan  
Development Applications Unit  
Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht  
Newtown Road  
Wexford  
Y35 AP90

(053) 9117382



An Roinn  
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

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Department of  
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



An Roinn  
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of  
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Your Ref: 61.PA0033

12 September 2017

Kieran Doherty  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Via email to [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie)

**Re: Galway Harbour Extension, Renmore and Townparks Townlands, Galway**

Dear Mr Doherty,

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht have received Galway Harbour Company's supplementary information in relation to the proposed Phase 1 approach to compensatory measures and have reviewed the documentation.

It is noted that An Bord Pleanála has determined in a communication dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 that the proposed Galway Harbour Extension would result in the permanent loss of the following habitats:

- Reef
- Mudflat and sandflat not covered by seawater at low tide
- Perennial vegetation on stony bank
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- Mediterranean Salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)

All of the above habitats are listed as qualifying interests for Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation. The permanent loss of these habitats is not reconcilable with the conservation objectives for this site and it was determined that the proponents may wish seek to compensate for this loss by developing options that would satisfy Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC). It is noted that the supplementary information submitted to this Department advises on the development of that strategy and seeks assurances that the proposals will be acceptable to this Department.

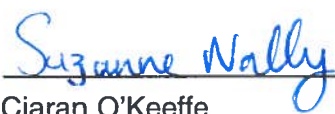
In the supplementary information, the proponents indicate that they have sought precedent for their proposed strategy with developments of a similar nature in other member states. They are confident that the approach they are taking is consistent with accepted practice across the community and Commission guidance. They indicate that they consider that the most advantageous solution for compensatory measures may be found at Tawin Island within Galway Bay. This site is within the existing boundary of Galway Bay Complex SAC but it is not in optimal condition due to a number of pressures operating in the vicinity. The proponents indicate a range of specific management measures that they are developing which would increase the conservation value of the site for marine and coastal habitats beyond the capacity of normal Natura management. In order to assure An Bord Pleanála that the compensatory measures are sufficient to replace the potentially lost habitats within the footprint of the Galway Harbour Extension they will complete quantitative biological surveys. They are developing a management plan which would

address the known pressures and they will be seeking to secure ownership of the relevant areas. They contend that the management of Tawin Island will more than adequately offset the potential negative consequences of the Galway Harbour Extension.

This Department considers that the Galway Harbour Company proposals appear to be capable of producing a meaningful set of conservation measures that could, if implemented, in due course provide adequate compensation within Galway Bay Complex SAC for the potential loss associated with the Galway Harbour Extension

The Department would advise An Bord Pleanála that it should form its own view in regard to Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and the precedents quoted in the Harbour Company's submission.

Yours sincerely

*PP*  
  
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Ciaran O'Keeffe  
National Parks and Wildlife Service