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## Environmental Impact Assessment Report Development at Waterford Airport

### Volume 2 – Chapter 4 - Consultation

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Prepared for: Waterford City & County Council in Partnership with Waterford Regional Airport PLC



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## 4. EIA SCOPING & CONSULTATION

### 4.1 Introduction

Consultation is an important part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. This chapter describes the consultation process and EIAR scoping that was undertaken in order to identify key effects from the proposed Northern Runway Extension development to be included in the EIAR. A number of points and submissions were raised as part of the consultation process which have informed this EIAR and survey methodologies. This section presents the key points that arose through the scoping process and how these points were assessed in the EIAR.

### 4.2 Scoping

The purpose of the EIAR scoping process is to identify the key points and issues which are likely to be important during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of a project and to eliminate those that are not. The scoping process identifies sources or causes of potential environmental effects, the pathways by which the effects can happen, and the sensitive receptors, which are likely to be affected. It defines the appropriate level of detail for the information to be provided in the EIAR. In essence, the primary focus of scoping is to define the most appropriate methodology for assessment of significant effects related to the proposed development.

A scoping document which included a description of the proposed development, draft of the preliminary site boundary and preliminary contents was forwarded to 32 consultees on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2018. The recipients included the Local Authority, Government Departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), interested parties and key stakeholders.

#### 4.2.1 Local & Regional Authorities

A copy of the scoping document was forwarded to the following local and regional authorities:

- Waterford City & County Council Housing Department
- Waterford City & County Council Environment Department
- Waterford City & County Council Heritage Unit
- Waterford City & County Council Roads, Water & Environment
- Southern Regional Assembly

#### 4.2.2 Government Departments

A copy of the scoping document was forwarded to the following government departments:

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Department of Justice and Equality



#### 4.2.3 NGOs & Stakeholders

- The Arts Council
- An Taisce
- Fáilte Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Health and Safety Authority
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Office of Public Works (OPW)
- National Transport Authority
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- The Heritage Council
- Emergency Planning, Health Service Executive
- Coras Iompair Eireann (CIE)
- Geological Survey Ireland
- Irish Water
- Southern Regional Assembly
- Bat Conservation Ireland
- Birdwatch Ireland
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Irish Raptor Study Group
- Irish Coast Guard

A copy of the scoping document is included in appendix 4.2 and all responses received are set out in Appendix 4-1. A summary of the consultation responses received is presented in table 4.1 below.

**Table 4-1: Pre-submission Consultation Responses**

Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	Chapter of EIAR / EIS where Key Points Raised are Addressed
Minister for Communication, Climate Action and Environment	27/06/2018	Confirmation of receipt of Scoping Document and confirmation that correspondence would be brought to the Minister's attention. No further response received.	N/A
An Taisce	28/06/2018	In their response An Taisce noted the need to assess the proposal in relation to climate impact with regard to jet aviation, the Paris Agreement climate targets, low carbon alternatives and greenhouse gas emissions.	Chapter 10 Air Quality and Climate
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	02/07/2018	Confirmation of receipt of Scoping Document and confirmation that correspondence would be brought to the Minister's attention. No further response received.	N/A



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	Chapter of EIAR / EIS where Key Points Raised are Addressed
Fáilte Ireland	03/07/2018	<p>Fáilte Ireland provided a copy of the Fáilte Ireland Guidelines on the treatment of tourism in an Environmental Impact Statement. The advice describes how tourism should be considered in an EIAR in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts caused by tourism projects</li> <li>Impacts affecting tourism</li> </ul> <p>The advice note states that the 'do nothing' impact should be considered, predicted impacts should be considered and mitigation of adverse impacts should be detailed.</p>	Chapter 5 Population and Human Health
Irish Water	06/07/2018	Irish Water responded to the scoping report with a number of suggestions to be included in the scope of an EIAR. Issues included the capacity of water services, up-grading of water services, discharge, surface-water management and mitigation.	Chapter 7 Hydrology and Water Quality
Southern Regional Assembly	06/07/2018	<p>In their response, The Southern Regional Assembly set out a number of observations which they recommend should be considered in the EIAR.</p> <p>The response was focused on proximity of the proposed development to designated sites. With regard to this, a number of documents were recommended in assisting the preparation of the EIAR, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RSES Issues Paper for the Southern Region (November 2017),</li> <li>RSES SEA Scoping Report (Dec 2017),</li> <li>Information supporting AA Screening document for RSES (May 2018).</li> </ul>	Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement and Chapter 12 Biodiversity
Inland Fisheries Ireland	09/07/2018	The response received from Inland Fisheries Ireland specified that the following issue should be addressed in the EIAR; the treatment of extra surface water run-off from the proposed runway and carpark area.	Chapter 7 Hydrology and Water Quality
The Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation	03/07/2018	Confirmation of receipt of Scoping Document and confirmation that correspondence would be brought to the Minister's attention. No further response received.	N/A
The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine	27/06/2018	Confirmation of receipt of Scoping Document and confirmation that correspondence would be brought to the Minister's attention. No further response received.	N/A



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	Chapter of EIA / EIS where Key Points Raised are Addressed
The Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection	21/06/2018	Confirmation of receipt of Scoping Document and confirmation that correspondence would be brought to the Minister's attention. No further response received.	N/A
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	13/07/2018	<p>The response received from TII detailed best practice guidance to uphold policy as set out in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) and TII guidance. Issues to consider included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works that may affect the national road network.</li> <li>• Identify haul routes and potential licences required.</li> <li>• Consultation in relation to future national road schemes.</li> <li>• Production of a Traffic and Transport Assessment.</li> <li>• Consult TII publications to determine if a road safety audit is required.</li> <li>• Latest publications.</li> <li>• Reference to specific regulations and guidelines.</li> <li>• Have regard to previous Environmental Assessments and conditions imposed by The Board.</li> </ul>	Chapter 8 Traffic & Transport

The responses received were fully considered and points or issues raised were addressed throughout the EIA. Scoping responses are detailed in Appendix 4.1.

### 4.3 Consultation

#### 4.3.1 Pre-application Consultation

A pre-planning meeting was held with the Planning Department of Waterford City and County Council in relation to the proposed development. The meeting took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 at Waterford County Civic Office, Dungarvan. In attendance were representatives from the planning department as well as the Heritage Officer, Environmental Officer and Fire Officer of Waterford City and County Council. Representatives from Waterford Airport PLC and Fehily Timoney and Company were in attendance.





Items presented to the Local Authority representatives at the pre-planning meeting included site location and layout maps. Items discussed at the meeting included the proposed development, its layout and the design process, project components, the policy context for the proposed development, drainage design and construction methods.

Items highlighted by the Local Authority for consideration included the following:

- Drainage was noted with regard to avoidance of contaminants to streams that feed into protected sites.
- Construction methods were discussed in relation to construction and demolition waste and off-site fill associated with the proposed development.
- Navigation lights were discussed in terms of inclusion in the EIAR and red-line boundary. Landowner permission was discussed with regard to this matter.
- Car parking was highlighted to be included in the planning application and therefore considered in the EIAR.
- The red-line development boundary was discussed and recommended to include all components of the proposed development to be included in the subject planning application.
- The importance of a NIS in relation to the Tramore SPA/SAC was indicated.

Correspondence was submitted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2018 to various Local Authority Departments as set out in section 4.2.1.

#### 4.3.2 Irish Aviation Authority

During the design process Waterford Airport has engaged with the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) regarding alterations to the runway, taxiway, apron and associated areas, aviation safety during the construction phase and future licensing in accordance with European and National Regulations. This has provided the framework for the development design. Prior to construction and operational activity of the runway and associated infrastructure, Waterford Airport will be obliged to participate in a formal compliance process with the IAA in accordance with licensing requirements. This will confirm the appropriate safety and security measures under which the airport will operate.

## 4.4 Conclusion

The consultation exercise identified a number of issues of concern to respective consultees, these are listed above in Table 4-1 together with where in the EIAR the issue has been appraised or considered. The consultation exercise has provided useful information for the preparation of this EIAR and all issues raised were fully addressed.



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