



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

DfI Rivers Planning Advisory & Modelling Unit

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Your Ref: LA11/2021/1211/TBA
Our Ref: IN1-21-12007

8th February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Proposed Riverine Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge. Between Lifford, County Donegal and Strabane County Tyrone.

With reference to your consultation dated 11th January 2022. From a drainage and flood risk aspect my comments are as follows:-

FLD1 - Development in Fluvial and coastal Flood Plains - The Flood Hazard Map (NI) indicates that the site lies within the 1 in 100 year fluvial flood plain. DfI Rivers would consider that this proposal is contrary to PPS 15, Planning and Flood Risk, FLD 1.

Development within the above mentioned flood plain would require Planning Authority to deem the application an exception or overriding regional importance. Then to allow proper consideration of flood risk to the site DfI Rivers would recommend that the applicant undertakes a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) appropriate to the scale of development.

The FRA should be carried out under the direction of a qualified and competent professional. Taking into account the precautionary approach of Revised PPS 15 it is recommend that any new development be allowed an additional freeboard of 600mm.

Detailed guidance on the aims and content of a FRA can be found in Planning Policy Statement (Planning and Flood Risk) – Annex D.

The planning authority should be aware that the Department for Infrastructure updated its Technical Flood Risk Guidance in relation to Allowances for Climate Change in Northern Ireland on 25th February 2019.

The Guidance and associated documentation can be accessed or downloaded via the Department for Infrastructure's web page as follows:- <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/technical-flood-risk-guidance-relation-allowances-climate-change-northern-ireland>



FLD2 - Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure – The proposal crosses the River Foyle, which is designated under the terms of the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973, at this location. The site may be affected by undesignated watercourses of which we have no record.

Under 6.32 of the policy it is essential that a working strip of minimum width 5m from the top of the bank is retained. The applicant should contact the local DfI Rivers area staff to establish their needs. DfI Rivers requires that the working strip is shown on a site layout drawing that will be included in any Planning Decision Notice to enable enforcement of the provision of the working strip. DfI Rivers requests that the working strip is protected from impediments (including tree planting, hedges, permanent fencing and sheds), land raising or any future development by way of a planning condition. Access to and from the maintenance strip should be available at all times.

In addition by way of a planning informative, landowners whose property is affected by this watercourse should be made aware of DfI River's obligations to maintain the watercourse.

FLD3 - Development and Surface Water – A Drainage Assessment is not required by the policy but the developer should still be advised to carry out their own assessment of flood risk and construct in the appropriate manner that minimises flood risk to the proposed development and elsewhere.

FLD4 - Artificial Modification of watercourses – Artificial modification of a watercourse is normally not permitted unless it is necessary to provide access to a development site or for engineering reasons. This is a matter for The Planning Authority. Any culverting approved by the Planning Authority will also be subject to approval from DfI Rivers under Schedule 6 of the Drainage Order 1973. These approvals are both independently necessary.

FLD5 - Development in Proximity to Reservoirs – Not applicable to this site.

Under the terms of Schedule 6 of the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 the applicant must submit to DfI Rivers, for its consent for any proposal to carry out works which might affect a watercourse such as culverting, bridging, diversion, building adjacent to or discharge of storm water etc. Failure to obtain such consent prior to carrying out such proposals is an offence under the aforementioned Order which may lead to prosecution or statutory action as provided for.

I trust you find the foregoing helpful and should you require any further information or clarification please contact me at the above address.

Colum O'Neill
Planning Advisory & Modelling Unit