



Department for

**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

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**DfI Rivers Planning Advisory & Modelling Unit**

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Your Ref: LA11/2021/1211/TBA

Our Ref: IN1-21-12007

6<sup>th</sup> September 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 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. From a drainage and flood risk aspect my comments are as follows:-

Appendices 9-1 and 9-2 containing the Flood Risk and Drainage Assessments did not accompany this consultation on the Planning Portal. However, as part of an associated consultation from Derry City & Strabane District Council LA11/2022/0207/F, DfI Rivers is in possession of these relevant appendices.

DfI Rivers comments in relation to FLD3 & FLD5 remain valid as per correspondence dated 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.

**FLD1 - Development in Fluvial and coastal Flood Plains** – DfI Rivers has reviewed the Flood Risk Assessment by McCloy Consulting, dated January 2022, and comments as follows;

DfI Rivers has had no confirmation from the Planning Authority that this proposal has been deemed an exception under policy. Planners will have to satisfy themselves that the application constitutes an exception under FLD 1.

McCloy Consulting have taken the existing fluvial model from DfI Rivers and introduced the development proposals in order to establish the effects on flooding during the 1% AEP flood. This is demonstrated in section 4.2.4 with flood mapping included at Appendix D. The FRA concludes that the proposals will have no measurable effect on flooding elsewhere for the 1% AEP present day flood. The bridge soffit is to be at a level of 6.03mOD, this is to ensure the required 600mm freeboard above the upstream in channel 1% AEP flood level plus climate change. DfI Rivers has no reason to doubt these technical findings within the FRA.

The FRA has determined that ground levels within the Strabane site would result in a mean flood depth of 0.85m ranging to maximum of 3.5mOD during the 1%AEP flood. To mitigate the hazard to occupiers/visitors the implementation of a robust Flood Evacuation and Management Plan (FEMP) is proposed, Derry and Strabane District Council will be responsible for the management of this.

DfI Rivers cannot comment on the acceptability of the FEMP, for example, whether arrangements are “safe”. The Planning Authority should make the final decision on whether the flood plan, the proposed development and the scale of intensification of use are acceptable.

**FLD2 - Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure** – The proposed development causes no new built development or hard boundary treatment that would impede maintenance of watercourse/ flood defences versus existing provisions and as such Revised PPS 15 FLD 2 is satisfied.

In addition by way of a planning informative the operator should be made aware of DfI River’s obligations to maintain the watercourses and flood defences.

**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. The bridge, if 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.**

### **Planning Informatives**

In addition to the foregoing points DfI Rivers would recommend that planning informatives as follows should be included in any planning decisions.

Informative Numbers E01, E02, E03, E06 & E10.



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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**