

27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Appropriate Assessment Determination under Section 42 (11) European Communities (Birds and Natural) Regulations S.I. 477 of 2011.**

**FOOD WISE 2025**

An Appropriate Assessment determination has been made by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at the conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment process.

This decision has been informed by information prepared by Philip Farrelly & Co Ltd./Scott Cawley Ltd. on behalf of the Department - Natura Impact Statement dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015. This Natura Impact Statement describes the nature of the proposed Food Wise 2025 strategy, the nature of the likely significant effects on European sites. It sets out the nature of the proposed implications of the implementation of Food Wise 2025 and assessed any potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts of the proposed Strategy on all relevant European Sites.

The Department has examined likely significant effects of the proposed Strategy on European Sites in light of the specific Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives that apply to these sites. Due to the lack of geographic specificity of the implementation of the Strategy, it is not possible to assess impact on individual European Sites so it was agreed that a strategic level of assessment was appropriate. The assessment also recognised the role that existing and proposed statutory measures and environmental protection schemes play in addressing the likely significant effects so that the risk of adverse effects on the integrity of European sites can be removed. The interaction of the other agricultural and food-related plans and programmes was also taken into account.

Having reviewed and considered the Natura Impact Statement and general information on the nature of Food Wise 2025, the Department has been able to conclude that there was no likelihood of any significant effects on any European Sites that would give rise to potential adverse impact on the integrity of European sites arising from the proposed Food Wise 2025, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This judgement also takes into account the strategic nature of the Strategy and how its subsequent implementation will be assessed at other stages where spatial and temporal detail will be set out.