


Foreshore Unit,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Newtown Road, Co. Wexford
8th November 2022

Marine Adviser Environment Screening Stage Report

Re: FS007161 Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta – Site investigation of the offshore array area at
Sceirde Rocks, Co. Galway

Applicant: Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta

In response to your email of the 18th of May 2022 I have reviewed the Foreshore Application **FS007161** and all the environmental documents associated with it. My comments on and recommendations for this application are as follows:

The Department's Marine Environment Advisor will conduct independent assessments of the information provided by the Applicant, having regard to the Habitats, Birds and EIA Directives.

Risk Assessment of Annex IV Species

The applicant provided a Risk Assessment for Annex IV species in its Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report. This report stated that the protocols in the Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound (DAHG 2014) will be followed at all times. It therefore concluded that it is very unlikely that any Annex IV species will be injured or disturbed as a result of the proposed works. Having considered the application by Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta and the applicant's Risk Assessment of Annex IV species I agree with and accept this conclusion.

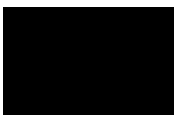
It should be noted that this risk assessment is not part of the Article 6.3 assessment and therefore identification and inclusion of mitigation measures within the risk assessment is appropriated at this stage.

Article 6(3) of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive):

Having considered the application by Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta and their Supporting Information to inform Screening AA Report as the Department's Marine Advisor_Environment I undertook a screening for Appropriate Assessment. This concluded that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on European sites. My Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report accompanies this document. My signed Recommending Officer's **Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination** which requires the signature of the Minister as part of the decision-makers obligations under the Habitats Directive is contained as an appendix to this document.

On completion of the Public and Prescribed Bodies Consultation, I will furnish my Appropriate Assessment with a determination and a final Environmental Report. This final report, having regard to the information obtained during consultation phase, may include case specific conditions.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Advisor Environment:



8th of November, 2022

