



Capt. Lawrence Kilbane  
Marine Survey Office  
Department of Transport,  
Leeson Lane,  
Dublin 2  
D02 TR60

6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**RE: Application for Consent under Section 5 of the Continental Shelf Act 1968 (as amended) – Safety of Navigation**

Dear Capt. Kilbane,

I refer to previous letters issued by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communication (*DECC*) (dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 respectively – copies attached for reference) in connection with the decommissioning of Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities.

The Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities are made up of (1) Kinsale Head gas fields, including Southwest Kinsale and Ballycotton gas fields and facilities and (2) Seven Heads gas field and facilities. Together, the decommissioning of the entirety of the Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities is referred to as the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project (*KADP*).

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications has previously granted consent to two applications made by the gasfields' operator, PSE Kinsale Energy, as part of the KADP.

This was an application for the plugging and abandonment of wells, removal of the two topsides structures and the removal of subsea facilities, for which consent was granted on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and for the removal of the platform jacket structures, for which consent was granted on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

As part of the next phase of the KADP, DECC has received two applications under Section 5 of the Continental Shelf Act 1968 (as amended) as follows:

- An application for Kinsale Head gas fields received from PSE Kinsale Energy Limited
- An application for Seven Heads gas field received from PSE Seven Heads Limited

The scope of the applications is as follows:

1. To alter certain facilities in the Kinsale Area gas fields
2. To alter certain facilities in the Seven Heads gas field

As outlined in the previous correspondence attached, Section 5 of the Continental Shelf Act 1968 (as amended) requires consent of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and



Communications to construct, alter or improve any structure or works or remove any object or materials from a designated area in the Irish offshore beyond the foreshore.

As it stands, there is no statutory requirement for the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to consult with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to safety of navigation with regards to an application for consent under Section 5 of the above-mentioned Act. This is sought to be rectified by a provision in the Minerals Development Act 2017, which has not yet been commenced.

In the interim, as in our previous correspondence to you regarding the KADP, we would like to consult with you on an administrative basis and seek the views of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in respect of the safety of navigation in relation to the applications to alter certain facilities from a designated area under Section 5(2) of the Continental Shelf Act 1968 (as amended).

Please see enclosed details of the current applications received as part of KADP (**Appendix 1**).

If you have any queries on the above or any of the enclosed, don't hesitate to let us know by return.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Dunphy'.

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**Garry Dunphy (Assistant Principal)**  
**An Oifig um Rialú Geo-eolaíochta**  
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