

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

Project reference: FS007161 Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta – Foreshore Licence Application to carry out site investigations 5km off the coast of County Galway.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening process determined that likely significant effects could not be ruled out with respect to disturbance from underwater noise to qualifying interests of a number of European sites within the Zone of Influence of the proposed project.

In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect the integrity of European sites, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives.

Measures to mitigate against the likely significant effects were identified and these measures have been included as licence conditions. Strict adherence to these measures is considered appropriate mitigation to avoid significant effects on conservation objectives of any European site.

It is therefore determined that the proposed project, either alone or in-combination with other projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Advisor Environment:



Ph. D. 9th August 2023

Signature and Date of Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:



21st August 2023