

From: JUSTIN ANDREWS - [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 December 2018 01:45

To: Marine Spatial Planning <msp@housing.gov.ie>
[REDACTED]

Subject: Baseline Report National Marine Planning Framework Submission

Environmental Management and Sustainability

7.0 Defence and National Security

In regards to the report on defence and national security there are certain gaps in the report that should be addressed , based on the ever changing human resource and manpower crises currently within the Defence forces in particularly in the Naval service. With 250million Euros being spent on hardware in the Naval service including the Navy's four latest Vessels. The foreseeable problem with these new Vessels is being able to provide the manpower to keep them fully operational to carry out missions set for them. This year members of the naval service reserve were called up to support LE Eithne the Flagship of the naval service due to the fact it did not have an adequate number of crew members to carry out a routine patrol. The fact that the State demands the Navel service to perform and maintain both international and internal security whilst undermanned with excess vessels seems like an excess of spending on quantity of new equipment the quality of pay conditions and morale lowers leading to an exodus of personal.

The solution may be for future investment to go into quality of training, pay and living conditions in the Defence forces as well as Investment to maintain the current fleet and services surrounding it in Hubowline naval base. As a current strategy to combat the manpower crises maybe utilising the manpower of the coast guard and the civil defence to carry out some of the smaller tasks performed by the naval service and naval service reserve. In areas such as port security duties and coastal maritime patrols this in turn may provide a part time permanent solution and enable members of the naval service to carry out their duties with maximum manpower until manpower levels can be improved with an influx of new recruits.

With the onset of Brexit this is particularly prevalent as it is uncertain how security relations and responsibilities may change in the case that a hard Brexit does occur. More pressure and responsibility will be placed on the shoulders of the defence forces to maintain the marine security of Ireland. And right now with the current situation within the defence forces action needs to be taken if the goals of National security and defence in this report are to be met.

Justin Andrews

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]