



Our Ref: **DP00095/2019**

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

09 January 2020

SEA Submissions,
Environmental Planning Policy Unit,
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin.

Via email: environmentalplanning@housing.gov.ie

Re: Notice under Regulation 9(5) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2011), as amended.

Concerning the proposed Ministerial Direction (proposed to be made in accordance with section 31a of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended)

In relation to the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 - 2031

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On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

The Department has received notification from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government under Regulation 9(5) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, 2004, of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening assessment which has been undertaken in relation to a proposed Ministerial Direction under Section 31A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 in relation to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

The Department acknowledges receipt of the following documents which were circulated as part of the notification to the Minister:

1. Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report
2. Appropriate Assessment Screening report
3. Draft Ministerial Direction proposed to be issued under Section 31A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000
4. Notice under Regulation 9(5) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, 2004, in relation to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.



The Department notes that the preparation of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy has been the subject of environmental assessment including SEA and Appropriate Assessment per the requirements of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. The Department provided observations to the Assembly as part of these assessments.

The Department notes the conclusion in relation to SEA that the proposed Ministerial Direction is not likely to have any significant effects on the environment and does not require SEA.

In relation to appropriate assessment the Department notes that the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government intends to screen the Ministerial Direction for appropriate assessment pursuant to the requirements of Regulation 42(2) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011. The Department further notes the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report which has been prepared and notes the conclusion in relation to the proposed Ministerial Direction that it is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or sites.

You are requested to send further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@chg.gov.ie (team monitored); if this is not possible, correspondence may alternatively be sent to:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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Joanne Lyons
Development Applications Unit