



7 May 2020

Mr John Martin
Principal Officer
Head of Flood Project Management,
OPW Head Office,
Jonathan Swift Street,
Trim, Co. Meath

Re: Proposed River Bride/Blackpool Flood Relief Scheme

John,

I enclose copies of the following documentation in connection with River Bride Flood Relief Scheme:

- Review of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) -including recommendations;
- Review of Natura Impact Statement (NIS) -including recommendations;
- Report on consultation submissions

These reviews were completed by CAAS Ltd environmental consultants on behalf of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for the purposes of the Ministerial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) statutory requirements under the Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995, and Statutory Instrument No. 472 of 2019 European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Arterial Drainage) Regulations 2019 and (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No.477 of 2011).

On foot of the expert advice of our consultants, and in order assist the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform on a decision on whether or not to confirm the scheme, I am minded to request supplementary information in relation to this scheme, pursuant to section 7(B) sub-section 4 of the 2019 European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Arterial Drainage) Regulations, which states;

Where the Commissioners have submitted an environmental impact assessment report to the Minister under this section, the Minister shall, where necessary, request the Commissioners to provide supplementary information, specified in Annex IV to the directive, which is directly relevant to reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant

effects of the drainage works concerned on the environment and the Commissioners shall comply with such a request.

Full details of the information required is contained in the recommendations of both the EIA and NIS reports. This Department would appreciate if you could consider the reports and the required information and indicate what timeline may be in order to provide the necessary information. I look forward to your response in this regard.

If there are any queries, clarifications or comments in relation to the reports, we would also appreciate if a composite response setting these out can be provided by the OPW at your earliest convenience to my colleague Paul Kilkenny; paul.kilkenny@per.gov.ie

Yours sincerely,

Brian

Brian O'Malley
Principal Officer,
Central Expenditure Policy Division