



9 April 2021

Mr John Martin
Principal Officer
Head of Flood Project Management,
OPW Head Office,
Jonathan Swift Street,
Trim,
Co. Meath
C15 NX36

Re: Proposed River Deel Flood Relief Scheme

John,

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

- Review of Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the River Deel (Crossmolina) Drainage Scheme- including recommendations;
- Review of Natura Impact Statement of the River Deel (Crossmolina) Drainage Scheme - including recommendations;
- Summary documents for both EIAR and NIS reviews, which presents the additional information/queries concisely.
- In respect of submissions received during the consultation, please note that only one was received and it is the view of the consultants that the matters raised are not relevant to the EIAR/NIS, but are more appropriate for the OPW to respond to in relation to the proposals generally. A copy of the submission is attached and I would be grateful if you could address the matters therein directly.

These reviews were completed by Enviroguide 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 summarised in the recommendations documents which are attached. 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