

CONSULTATION

Response Document



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“National Broadband Plan –SEA/AA/Map Consultation”

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

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Introduction to CIEEM

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), the leading membership organisation supporting professional ecologists and environmental managers in Ireland, the United Kingdom and abroad, welcomes the opportunity to participate in this consultation process.

CIEEM was established in 1991, received Chartered status in 2013, and has 5,000 members drawn from local authorities, government agencies, industry, environmental consultancy, teaching/research, and voluntary environmental organisations. The Chartered Institute has led the way in defining and raising the standards of ecological and environmental management practice with regard to biodiversity protection and enhancement. It promotes knowledge sharing through events and publications, skills development through its comprehensive training and development programme and best practice through the dissemination of technical guidance for the profession and related disciplines.

CIEEM is a member of:

- The Environmental Science Association of Ireland
- Europarc Federation
- European Network of Environmental Professionals
- IUCN – The World Conservation Union
- Professional Associations Research Network
- Society for the Environment
- United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 Network
- The UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Biodiversity
- The UK Environmental Policy Forum

CIEEM has approximately 250 members in Ireland who are drawn from across the private consultancy sector, NGOs, government and semi-state agencies, local authorities, academia and industry. They are practising ecologists and environmental managers, many of whom regularly provide input to and advice on SEA and AA.

Comments from CIEEM

CIEEM welcomes the opportunity to participate in the National Broadband Plan - SEA/AA/Map Consultation by the DCCAE.

Whilst CIEEM broadly agrees with the Department's approach to date, we consider that it would be mutually beneficial for CIEEM to engage with the DCCAE as the NBP – SEA /AA/Map is developed further and progresses.

CIEEM would welcome the opportunity to comment on drafts at a later stage, particularly in respect of any detailed plans/proposals which require assessment under the Habitats Directive - in relation to European sites; and/or in relation to any nationally or internationally designated sites; and/or in relation to protected species.

CIEEM is the professional representative body of ecological practitioners who record and evaluate Irish biodiversity throughout their work, including within the context of planning and development. Our members are knowledgeable about the natural heritage of Ireland and, for many members, a large proportion of their work is SEA/AA - related.

CIEEM is therefore well placed to provide advice to the DCCAE in respect of ecological aspects of the National Broadband Plan - SEA/AA/Map going forwards.

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