

Ref: 15/0039/PER

20th October 2015

Minister of State Simon Harris
OPW
Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

Clare River (Claregalway) Flood Relief Scheme

Dear Simon

I refer to the above scheme which has been submitted by your Office to my Department.

My Department has examined the environmental impact statement (EIS) of the scheme in accordance with the provisions of the European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Arterial Drainage) Regulations 2012¹. The evaluation consisted of an independent assessment of the EIS conducted by consultants on behalf of my Department, having regard to the EIA regulations. Taking account of this independent report, I consider that the EIS identifies, describes and assesses the direct and indirect effects of the proposed scheme.

Therefore, I now propose to confirm the scheme subject to the conditions that I consider necessary, in addition to the mitigation measures in the EIS, to avoid, reduce and, if possible, offset the major adverse effects (if any) of the proposed scheme. These conditions are set out in the appendix to this letter.

In accordance with the regulations, I am now advising the Commissioners of Public Works that a decision to confirm the proposed scheme has been taken and accordingly am now making the following information available to the Commissioners, in the first instance:

- i. the content of the confirmation and the conditions attached thereto,

¹ SI No. 469 of 2012

- ii. the assessment which concludes that the EIS satisfactorily identifies, describes and assesses the direct and indirect effects of the proposed scheme on the following:
 - a. human beings, flora and fauna;
 - b. soil, water, air, climate and the landscape;
 - c. material assets and the cultural heritage, and
 - d. the interaction among the factors,
- iii. the independent report prepared by the consultants; and
- iv. information for the public on the procedures available to seek a review of the substantive and procedural legality of the decision.

I would ask that the Commissioners confirm that they will comply with the conditions set out in the appendix. Subject to this confirmation, the next step will be to inform the public of the decision in the local media and on my Department's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Howlin', written in a cursive style.

Brendan Howlin, TD

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform