



Mr Brendan Howlin, T.D
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Bandon River (Bandon) Drainage Scheme

Dear Minister,

I refer to your letter of 24th March, 2016 to Mr Simon Harris, T.D., Minister of State, in relation to the Confirmation of the above Drainage Scheme under the Arterial Drainage Acts.

On behalf of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland I wish to confirm that the Commissioners will comply with the terms of the conditions set out in the Appendix to your letter with the possible exception of Conditions 15 and 16 as they are currently set out.

Condition 15 requires a Communication Plan to be prepared and agreed with Cork County Council and be implemented which should be made publicly available online. The Commissioners agree with this as it is desirable that the public be kept up to date with issues which are of interest to the general public and intend to make such a Plan available on the Project Website. The Condition, however, requires that the full Schedule of Commitments, the Construction Environmental Management Plan (C.E.M.P) and all the Environmental Compliance Reports be made available and it is the Commissioners' view that this would not be the optimum communication strategy for the project. Not all of the issues are relevant to all of the relevant stakeholders and it is our view that a targeted approach to the Communication Plan would make it more effective. On this basis, it is proposed that a Communications Plan be agreed with Cork County Council which would present a Plan which would be more appropriate to a general public audience, rather than include too much material which might lead to confusion. The Website would make the public aware that all material could be made available on request.

Condition 16 calls for the C.E.M.P. to describe and confirm how safe access to water level from selected points on the river banks shall be incorporated into the Scheme and this presents a problem as the C.E.M.P. is a document prepared by the Contractor and access to the River is part of the design and is the responsibility of the Employer rather than the Contractor. We are quite happy to confirm that the detailed design for access will be prepared by the Scheme designers for those people requiring access to the River. The C.E.M.P. can state that the detailed design for access is to be prepared by others if and when required by people requiring access to the River.

I look forward to your agreement and response to the above.

Yours sincerely,

Liam Basquille
Principal Officer

Engineering Services

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF the COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS

29th March 2016