

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 11 February 2025 14:52
To: MARA Licence [REDACTED]; Alison McCarthy (Mara) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 4th Request for further information MUL240008

Dear Deirdre,

I refer to your correspondence dated 6th January 2025 regarding the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is required for our licence application MUL240008.

In response to this request, please find attached the Natura Impact Statement (NIS), which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out under Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011). The assessment considers the relevant Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) identified in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination.

To ensure timely progression of the application, we would appreciate it if the public consultation period could commence as soon as possible. We kindly request that a copy of the public notice be provided at the earliest opportunity, allowing us to proceed with advertising in a national and local newspaper without further delay. Furthermore, we ask that the NIS be assessed concurrently with the public consultation process to expedite the decision-making timeline.

This application was submitted to MARA for consideration on the 27th June 2024 and, as of the date of submission of this NIS, will already have been under consideration by MARA for a period of almost seven months. This application has experienced significant delays throughout the pre-application and application process, and with surveying of the foreshore licence area scheduled to begin in early March, obtaining this licence as soon as possible is critical to maintaining project timelines.

Additionally, we have attached a letter of support from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to ensure MARA is fully aware of the department's backing for this project. We note that the development and acceleration of the roll-out of interconnectors such as MaresConnect is an objective of the Programme for Government 2025 and you will be aware that the delivery of interconnectors is an objective of Ireland's Climate Action Plan. MARA will be aware of its obligations under section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended) to perform its functions in a manner consistent with Ireland's climate action plans.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to your confirmation of receipt and an update on the next steps.

Best regards

[REDACTED]
Consultant
Intertek Metoc

[REDACTED]
www.intertek.com/energy-water
www.linkedin.com/showcase/intertek-energy



Follow us on our LinkedIn page for the latest news and updates:

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/intertek-energy/>

Intertek Energy & Water Consultancy Services is the trading name of Metoc Limited. Registered in England & Wales, No. 01489779; Registered Office: Academy Place, 1-9 Brook Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5NQ. Metoc Ltd is an Intertek company.

Total Quality. Assured.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email may contain confidential or privileged information, if you are not the intended recipient, or the person responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient then please notify us by return email immediately. Should you have received this email in error then you should not copy this for any purpose nor disclose its contents to any other person.

www.intertek.com

Metoc Limited, Registered in England No. 01489779, Registered Office Academy Place, 1-9 Brook Street, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5NQ Metoc Ltd is an Intertek company

From: MARA Licence [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2025 13:17
To: [REDACTED]; MARA Licence [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [External] 4th Request for further information MUL240008

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Please see attached request for further information for your attention.

Best regards,

Deirdre Murphy,
Analyst,
Maritime Usage Licensing.

Email: [REDACTED]

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)
2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29.

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí (MARA)
2ú Dara hUrlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Ghnó Dhraighní,
Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 5 December 2024 20:55
To: Paula O'Toole (MARA) [REDACTED]
Cc: MARA Licence [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 3rd Request for further information MUL240008

Dear Paula,

Thank you for your email, regarding the third request for information in relation to our Marine User Licence (MUL) application for site investigation surveys. We appreciate the opportunity to provide further clarification.

We wish to reiterate and clarify the following points regarding the scope of our planned surveys:

1. Drone and Bird Surveys:

- As previously communicated, we have removed the non-licensable activity of drone surveys from our programme.
- Bird surveys will also not be undertaken as part of the site investigation surveys within the area covered by our application. These activities are no longer part of our methodology.

2. Marine Mammal Surveys:

- We will employ a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) onboard all survey vessels throughout the programme.
- The MMO will be present during environmental, geotechnical, and geophysical survey operations, ensuring comprehensive coverage at all indicative sampling locations outlined in our programme for survey works.
- Observations will follow established best practices and regulatory protocols as outline in section 4.2 of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (DAGH) "Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters" to ensure robust and accurate data collection regarding marine mammal presence and activity.

3. Survey Protocols and Duration:

- The MMO will conduct continuous observations during vessel operations across all survey activities.
- Survey protocols will align with relevant guidance for MMO activities, including standardized data collection and reporting procedures, and mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts on marine mammals.

We trust this additional information provides the clarity required for the Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening process. If further details are needed or additional documentation is required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to your feedback.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Consultant
Intertek Metoc

[REDACTED]
www.intertek.com/energy-water
www.linkedin.com/showcase/intertek-energy [[linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)]



Follow us on our LinkedIn page for the latest news and updates:

[https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/intertek-energy/\[linkedin.com\]](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/intertek-energy/[linkedin.com])

Intertek Energy & Water Consultancy Services is the trading name of Metoc Limited. Registered in England & Wales, No. 01489779; Registered Office: Academy Place, 1-9 Brook Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5NQ. Metoc Ltd is an Intertek company.

Total Quality. Assured.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email may contain confidential or privileged information, if you are not the intended recipient, or the person responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient then please notify us by return email immediately. Should you have received this email in error then you should not copy this for any purpose nor disclose its contents to any other person.

www.intertek.com

Metoc Limited, Registered in England No. 01489779, Registered Office Academy Place, 1-9 Brook Street, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5NQ Metoc Ltd is an Intertek company

From: Paula O'Toole (MARA) [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2024 13:05
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: MARA Licence [REDACTED]
Subject: [External] 3rd Request for further information MUL240008

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see attached letter regarding 3rd Request for Information for MUL240008

Kind regards,

Paula O'Toole
Licencing Analyst

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí (MARA)
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

**An Dara hUrlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Gnó Dhraighní,
Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29.**

2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29.
W: www.maritimeregulator.ie [maritimeregulator.ie]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 2 December 2024 14:10
To: Paula O'Toole (MARA) <[REDACTED]>
Cc: MARA Licence <[REDACTED]> Deirdre Murphy (MARA) <[REDACTED]> Alison McCarthy (Mara) <[REDACTED]>; Joanne Staunton (MARA) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 2nd Request for further information MUL240008

Dear Paula,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 27th November. We acknowledge the request for additional information regarding the proposed drone surveys for bird and marine mammal assessments outlined in our licence application submitted on 28th June 2024.

We wish to inform you that we have revised our approach to these unlicensable surveys. Instead of utilising drone surveys, we will now employ a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) for these assessments. The MMO will conduct on-site observations adhering to best practices and regulatory protocols to ensure comprehensive and accurate data collection for marine mammal populations.

This updated approach renders the previously proposed drone surveys redundant, and we believe it will provide a more robust and detailed assessment in alignment with AA screening criteria.

Should you require any further clarification or additional documentation regarding our updated methodology, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your feedback on this revised plan.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Consultant
Intertek Metoc

[REDACTED]
www.intertek.com/energy-water
www.linkedin.com/showcase/intertek-energy



Follow us on our LinkedIn page for the latest news and updates:

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/intertek-energy/>

Intertek Energy & Water Consultancy Services is the trading name of Metoc Limited. Registered in England & Wales, No. 01489779; Registered Office: Academy Place, 1-9 Brook Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5NQ. Metoc Ltd is an Intertek company.

Total Quality. Assured.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email may contain confidential or privileged information, if you are not the intended recipient, or the person responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient then please notify us by return email immediately. Should you have received this email in error then you should not copy this for any purpose nor disclose its contents to any other person.

www.intertek.com

Metoc Limited, Registered in England No. 01489779 , Registered Office Academy Place, 1-9 Brook Street, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5NQ Metoc Ltd is an Intertek company

From: Paula O'Toole (MARA) [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 November 2024 10:54
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: MARA Licence [REDACTED]; Deirdre Murphy (MARA) [REDACTED]; Alison McCarthy (Mara) [REDACTED]; Joanne Staunton (MARA) [REDACTED]
Subject: [External] 2nd Request for further information MUL240008

Good morning [REDACTED]

Please find attached 2nd Request for Further information for MUL240008.

Kind regards,

Paula O'Toole
Licencing Analyst

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí (MARA)
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

**An Dara hUrlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Gnó Dhraighní,
Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29.**

2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29.

W: www.maritimeregulator.ie [maritimeregulator.ie]

