

Amazon MCS Ireland Ltd.  
One Burlington Plaza  
Burlington Road  
Dublin 4  
Ireland

(electronic copy)

Date: 31 October 2024

Reference number: MUL230031

Notice in accordance with section 117(6)(a) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 in respect of licence application reference MUL230031

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

I refer to the above licence application received by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 which included a Natura Impact Statement.

On 24th October 2024 a determination was made by MARA, following screening under Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011) that an appropriate assessment is required to be carried out in respect of the proposed maritime usage the subject of the application. The appropriate assessment screening determination is available at the following link: [MUL230031 - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

For the purpose of the appropriate assessment, you are required to prepare a revised Natura Impact Statement in relation to the proposed maritime usage which the subject of the licence application by addressing the following issues:

- Provide an updated Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in accordance with the Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination issued by MARA on 29th October 2024. In particular, the NIS should be updated to reflect the Special Protected Area sites considered in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination. The assessment and mitigation measures should also be updated accordingly.
- Provide clarification in the updated NIS regarding the proposed access routes for a backhoe/excavator to carry out onshore trial pits. The photographs provided in the NIS submitted by you on 06<sup>th</sup> June 2024 on pages 11 and 13 show two existing access routes, which both have barriers in place. As no scale or estimate of width of the access route and proposed equipment was provided, it is not possible to assess if the proposed access routes are suitable.

**address:**

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí / Maritime Area Regulatory Authority  
2<sup>ú</sup> hUrlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Ghnó Dhraighní Draighneach Loch  
Garman, Y35RF29.  
2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford,  
Y35RF29.

**email:**

[licence@mara.gov.ie](mailto:licence@mara.gov.ie)

**website:**

[www.maritimeregulator.ie](http://www.maritimeregulator.ie)

- Provide clarification in the updated NIS on the types and methods of sampling equipment to be used. Both Tables 5 and 29a of the NIS submitted by you on 06<sup>th</sup> June 2024 detail equipment not otherwise discussed in the proposed maritime usage activity application.
- Provide clarification in the updated NIS on the numbers of proposed samples to be taken as outlined on page 22 under “Seabed Sampling” as these do not correspond to details given on other parts of the NIS submitted by you on 06<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- Provide clarification in the updated NIS regarding the references used for the text on pages 136 and 137 of the NIS submitted by you on 06<sup>th</sup> June 2024, which discusses potential impacts on cetaceans and pinnipeds. The text references Southall (2007), not Southall (2019), which is the paper referred to in the text box on page 142, giving background to the text on pages 136 and 137 of the NIS submitted by you on 06<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- Provide consideration of potential impacts of temporary threshold shift (TTS) as well as consideration of permanent threshold shift (PTS) relating to marine mammal sound exposure in the text discussing potential impacts on cetaceans and pinnipeds.

The updated Natura Impact Statement must be submitted to MARA by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**In the event that you fail to submit the updated Natura impact statement by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, (or any extension to this date permitted by MARA for good and sufficient reason) your licence application shall be deemed to be withdrawn in accordance with section 117(8) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021.**

Please direct any queries to [licence@mara.gov.ie](mailto:licence@mara.gov.ie).

Your faithfully,

Licensing Team  
MARA