



1. Maritime Usage Licence – “Minded To” Determination Case Worker Report	
To	Dr. Karen Creed, Director of Maritime Authorisations
From	Joanne Staunton, Licensing Caseworker
Reviewed by	Jacinta Ponzi, Head of MUL Unit
Date	19/06/2025
Maritime Usage Licence Application:	
Applicant Name	Gas Networks Ireland
Applicant Address	Gas Networks Ireland, Gasworks Road, Cork, Co. Cork, T12 RX96
Application Received	06/09/2024
MUL Reference Number	MUL240034
Decision sought	<p>Approval sought for issuance of notice to the Applicant in accordance with Section 119(6)(b) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, to inform that:</p> <p>The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) is minded to GRANT a Maritime Usage Licence in respect of their application and the reasons why MARA is so minded.</p>
Description of works	Marine environmental surveys within two areas of the Shannon Estuary adjacent to the townlands of Cahiracon and Tarbert to provide high-quality baseline data that can contribute to a reliable basis for site selection for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve.
Schedule 7 activity	7(3) Marine environmental survey (site investigation)
Additional section 7 activity (if applicable)	Choose an item.
Documents submitted with application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maritime Usage Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report <input type="checkbox"/> Natura Impact Statement (NIS) Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment of Impact of Maritime Usage Report (AIMU) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Section 117(3) notice issued: Request for Further Information -RFI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: Date(s) of RFI(s) issued: 26/05/2025 Submission: Information on Section 5.2.1 of the SISAA report. Date(s) submitted: 05/06/2025 <input type="checkbox"/> Not required



Assessment, Research & Data (ARD) Assessment:	
Consideration of Screening for EIA: Section 117(5)(a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening for EIA: NOT REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> Screening for EIA: REQUIRED Date of Report: 11/06/2025 Signed by: John Evans
Screening for Appropriate Assessment: Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011)	<input type="checkbox"/> Screened IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screened OUT Date of AA Screening Report & Determination: 10/06/2025 Signed by: John Evans
If <i>SCREENED IN</i>: Was NIS/updated NIS requested in accordance with Section 117(6)(a)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: New NIS requested <input type="checkbox"/> YES: Updated NIS requested Date Requested: DD MM YYYY Date Received: DD MM YYYY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO: Not Required
AA Screening Report and Determination published on MARA website:	Date: 10/06/2025
Public Consultation – relevant where SCREENED IN	
Date of public consultation: Section 117(6)(b)	Date starts: N/A Date ends: N/A
Local Newspaper Name	
Local Newspaper Publication Date	
National Newspaper Name	
National Newspaper Publication Date	
Date public consultation published on MARA website	
Submissions from public received?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: Number received <input type="checkbox"/> NO



Referral to Notified Consultees, as directed by Assessment, Research & Data (ARD) Team:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bord Iascaigh Mhara <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioners of Irish Lights <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Environment, Climate & Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Transport - Marine Survey Office <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Protection Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Geological Survey of Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Fisheries Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Institute <input type="checkbox"/> National Monuments Service <input type="checkbox"/> National Parks and Wildlife Service <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Local Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Harbour Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Observations from notified consultees received?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: Number received <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Appropriate Assessment Determination (relevant where SCREENED IN)	
AA Report & Determination	Date of final report: N/A
Determination Approved by Director of ARD Unit	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
ARD MUL Assessment Report:	
Final ARD MUL Assessment Report <i>includes environmental & engineering reports</i>	Date of final report: 18/06/2025 Signed by: Dr Ciar O'Toole
Public Submissions taken into account in Final ARD MUL Assessment Report:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Notified Consultees Responses taken into account in Final ARD MUL Assessment Report:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A



Upon completion of the Appropriate Assessment Determination the following specific conditions and reasons for conditions are DETERMINED by ARD: (<i>mitigation measures</i>)	
N/A – Application screened out	
Upon completion of the <i>ARD MUL Assessment Report</i> the following conditions and reasons for conditions are RECOMMENDED by ARD:	
1.	Recommended Term of licence to be two years from date of commencement.
2.	The Permitted Maritime Usage shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars submitted in support of the application for this Licence. Reason: To clarify the scope of the licence and ensure protection of the marine environment.
3.	The Holder shall, a minimum 14 days prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage, arrange for the publication of a Marine Notice with the Marine Safety Policy Division, Department of Transport. This Marine Notice shall include details of the Licence Holder and the Licence Number as granted by MARA. Reason: To ensure safe navigation
4.	The Holder shall not damage or interfere with any third party’s property, infrastructure or fishing gear while conducting the Permitted Maritime Usage. Reason: To minimise impact on other users of the marine environment.
5.	Prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage the Holder shall consult with Shannon-Foynes Port Company to plan and schedule the Permitted Maritime Usage in order that any potential disruption to port operations is managed. Reason: To ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage.
6.	The Holder shall ensure that all vessels engaged in this Permitted Maritime Usage conform to Irish Certification standards for vessels, as required by the Marine Survey Office. Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment.
7.	The Holder shall take all reasonable practical measures to ensure that all vessels used in the Permitted Maritime Usage are free of invasive marine species on their hulls and in their ballast water and that all vehicles and equipment used are free of invasive marine species. Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment.
8.	Accidental events: The Holder shall ensure that there is an oil pollution emergency plan on-board any survey vessels. This plan should specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Information on the location and detail of spill response resources on-board. ii) Information on crew training in relation to oil pollution response. iii) How crew will interface with other site investigation operators, where applicable.



Reason: To provide appropriate controls on the Permitted Maritime Usage to ensure protection of the marine environment.

Minded to Determination of Licence Application:	
Case Worker Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRANT <input type="checkbox"/> PART GRANT <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSE
Period Specified to Applicant for submission of supplementary material in relation to the reasons for conditions: Section 119(6)(b)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 21 days <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Signed by (Caseworker)

Joanne Staunton

Date

19/06/2025



Annex 1 – List of Accompanying Documents:	
Screening for AA Report & Determination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ARD MUL Assessment Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Minded to Notice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Minded to Notice Cover Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>