

**An Roinn Aeráide,
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil**
Department of Climate,
Energy and the Environment

Circular MP02/2025

20 November 2025

To: The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

Re: Authorisation for Emergency Works to Underwater Cables etc.

A Chara,

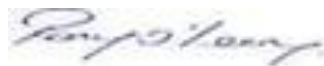
As you will be aware, the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, as amended, ('the Act') provides for authorisation of maritime usage by way of maritime area consents and maritime usage licences.

The position vis-à-vis emergency repairs to critical underwater infrastructure, including telecommunications and energy cables, within the maritime area in the case of an emergency requiring immediate work, has come to the Department's attention requiring clarification.

Schedule 7 of the Act lists maritime usages which may be undertaken pursuant to a licence and while the maintenance of any cable, pipeline, oil, gas or carbon storage facility structure, is listed, emergency work is not. Maintenance is a planned, ongoing activity, whereas emergency works are a finite once-off intervention in serious circumstances in order to protect life and/or property.

The purpose of this Circular is to clarify that emergency works to such cables do not require a maritime usage licence. The Department is exploring appropriate legislative approaches to bring further clarity to the matter.

Is mise le meas,



Rory O'Leary
Principal,
Marine Strategic Policy