

Q1. Clarify whether the overall purpose of the application is marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation (Schedule 7(3)).

A1. Yes, the overall purpose of the application is marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation (Schedule 7(3)).

Q2. Clarify whether the other Schedule 7 usages listed in Section 2.2 of the Application Form are ancillary to site investigations or are for another purpose other than site investigations

A2. The other Schedule 7 usages listed in Section 2.2 of the Application Form are ancillary to site investigations. They were included to ensure that all the proposed activities required for site investigation, including incidental activities, are included in any MUL that MARA may grant. Some of the rationale for including these activities in Section 2.2 are provided in the table below.

Ancillary Activities to Schedule 7(3) Activities	Reason for inclusion
7. The use of a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft, marine structure (other than a pipeline) or floating container to remove any substance or object from the seabed.	The SI works include the use of vehicle and vessels (e.g. boats, jack up barge) for the purposes of taking samples and cores from the seabed during geotechnical and environmental sampling campaigns.
12.(a) The removal of beach material from, or the disturbance of beach material in, the maritime area otherwise than in the course of the ordinary or reasonable recreational enjoyment of the maritime area. (b) In this paragraph, "beach material" means sand, clay, gravel, shingle, stones, rocks, mineral substances, seashells, coral and maerl and any flora, in or on the surface of the seabed or suspended in the water of the maritime area, and includes outcrops of rock or any other mineral substance above the surface of the seabed	The SI works include the taking of sediment samples and boreholes within Baldoyle Bay and from the surface of the seabed in the Irish Sea within the MUL boundary during geotechnical and environmental sampling campaigns.

Q3. With reference to the strict protection of species listed under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), confirm if you are required to apply for a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended. If yes, provide details of the application submitted, including the NPWS application reference number or derogation number, where a derogation has been issued.

A3. Yes, a derogation licence will be required under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended. Derogation licences are issued by the Wildlife Licencing Unit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on a calendar year basis. As site investigations are proposed to begin in April 2026, and no works will take place in 2025, it is our intention to apply for a derogation licence in early January 2026. Once we have an NPWS application reference number, we will share this information with MARA.