

Helvick Head Offshore Wind Designated Activity Company
27 Fitzwilliam St. Lower
Dublin 2
D02 KT92

By email only to emma.delaney@esb.ie

19/12/2025

Request for Additional Information: Section 117(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

**Re: Helvick Head Offshore Wind Designated Activity Company
Maritime Usage Licence Application Reference: MUL250019**

Dear Emma,

I refer to the above referenced maritime usage licence application received by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

MARA considers that it requires additional information as set out below in order to determine the licence application.

1. In relation to the Schedule of Works, the following additional information is required:

- Section 2.1 Geophysical surveys - reference is made to potential use of an ROTV. Clarify what this is and in what manner and where it will be used.
- Section 2.2 Geotechnical surveys - indicative quantities are given for geotechnical surveys proposed to be undertaken as part of a preliminary geotechnical campaign. Clarify whether further geotechnical surveys are proposed under this MUL application and, if so, provide information on what will be entailed.
- 2.2.1 Boreholes - clarify what the drilling muds are comprised of and the fate of the drilling muds following drilling.
- 2.2.3 Vibrocoring – it is noted that a piston core or similar may be used in place of a vibrocoring. Describe this equipment and in what manner and where it will be used.
- 2.2.2 Cone Penetration Testing - the diameter of the cone is given as up to 44 mm. Clarify what the 15 cm² value given in brackets refers to.
- 2.2.4 - what is the purpose of the Down the Hole testing. Clarify the noise produced from this testing.
- Section 2.3.1.2 states that Autonomous Floating Platforms may be used, however the background description refers to Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs).

Reference is also made to Autonomous Surface Vehicles (ASVs), Floating Lidar Platforms and Uncrewed Surface Vehicles. Clarify the differences between these survey vehicles and clarify which will be used and for what purpose.

- Section 2.3.1.2 - reference is made to the use of a CTV type vessel but no description is given. Clarify what is a CTV vessel and the manner in which it is proposed to be used.
- Section 2.3.1.2 notes alternatives to remote operation of USVs should they not be permitted. Clarify the authorisations required for the use of USVs, ASVs etc.
- Provide detailed information on the proposed fisheries, fish and shellfish surveys (Section 2.4.4), the Further Environmental Surveys (Section 2.4.5) and the Noise Level Surveys (Section 2.5).
- Update Table 2 accordingly should other noise sources have been omitted from the table.
- The SISAA document mentions archaeological dive surveys however these are not included in the Schedule of Works. Provide information on these surveys.

2. The Application Form states that a Foreshore licence application has been submitted to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (ref. FS007136). Clarify whether it is intended to undertake these surveys should the foreshore licence be granted.

3. The Annex IV risk assessment states that a derogation licence can be awarded should it be required. Clarify whether a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended is required for the proposed site investigation activities and if so, provide the National Parks and Wildlife Service application reference number.

The requested information should be submitted to MARA within **4 weeks** of the date of this notice, i.e by **22/01/2026** (including bank holidays), however if the documentation is available sooner, early submission is encouraged to expedite the assessment of your license application.

Please direct any queries to licence@mara.gov.ie.

Yours faithfully,

Joanne Staunton
Maritime Usage Licensing Team
MARA