



17th April 2026

MARA
2nd Floor,
Menapia House,
Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh,
Wexford,
Y35RF29
Via email: licence@mara.gov.ie

Request for Observations – MUL Reference: MUL260006

A Chara,

Clare County Council welcomes the opportunity to provide observations in relation to the application by Uisce Éireann to undertake Marine and Intertidal site investigation surveys in Liscannor Bay, County Clare. The surveys are required to inform the design and consenting of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to serve the agglomerations of Lahinch and Ennistymon.

Support for the Project

Clare County Council fully supports the MUL application given the considerable pressure on the receiving environment at present. The Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant has been on the Priority Action List since 2016, and a Compliance Investigation has remained open since October 2015. This plant is still subject to frequent flooding events. The flooding of the WWTP is so frequent that the WWTP cannot maintain an appropriate sludge biomass therefore it cannot provide adequate and appropriate treatment. This effectively means that sewage from the Lahinch agglomeration receives very limited treatment before discharging into tidal areas on the Inagh river entering Liscannor bay in close proximity to the designated bathing water area. The need for this project is clear and is one which Clare County Council welcomes and gives its full support to. Notwithstanding this, Clare County Council are keen to highlight the importance of the marine area which is the subject of the MUL application as indicated in Map Area A from a recreational and tourism perspective with the area frequently used by surfers, swimmers and general recreational use.

Environmental Assessments

The council would have concerns as to the restrictive nature of Area A as currently depicted in the licence application documentation and the ultimate location of the long sea outfall. As is indicated in the licence application documentation the facility will provide at least secondary treatment, improve compliance with the Water Framework Directive, and protect the ecological integrity of local riverine and coastal waters. Secondary treatment does not guarantee the protection of our coastal waters and will not guarantee that the final effluent which discharges to Liscannor bay will to a sufficient standard to ensure there are no impacts on water quality and in particular on human health at this location given its recreational use. Users of this bay and others across the county have suffered the consequences of poor water quality and the discharge of raw sewage for many years. Any new plant discharging to Liscannor Bay should ensure treatment is to a sufficient standard with a long sea outfall at a sufficient remove from the bay to ensure the assimilative capacity is such that no impacts on water quality or human health are experienced.

I note the proposed investigative surveys proposed within this Area as Bathymetric and Geophysical, Seabed and Benthic Surveys together with Geotechnical Investigations. It would be prudent given the time and resources required to undertake these types of surveys to expand Area A further out into the bay given the very high potential that the bathymetric surveys will indicate a shallow coastal shelf in Cregg Beach area coupled with the modelling which may indicate a lack of mixing in this area. Consideration should be given to expanding Area A to capture a wider range in terms of the final effluent outfall from the long sea outlet.

Is mise le meas,



Helen Quinn
Senior Planner
Planning, Placemaking & Economic Development