[redacted]

October 25th, 2026.

Email; [redacted]

Submission on MUL260006: safety and access for families using Cregg Beach

To whom it may concern,

My name is [redacted] Together with my wife [redacted] we own and run [redacted] about a quarter of a mile from Cregg Beach. I grew up a mile from the site in the townland of Maghera, Lahinch. The site is constructed on part of my mother's home place with her home house overlooking the site. My brother lives in the home house with his partner, their daughter, and their infant son. We opened in July 2021.

We open from February to the end of October each year. Our clientele is mixed. Individuals, couples, families etc. Tourists from all over the world stay with us, as well as plenty of domestic tourists. We are blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the country and make our living welcoming people to share in this area.

Cregg is a historic bathing area mentioned in the I.T.A. Topographical and General Survey 1942/3. Growing up, Cregg was our local beach. In the summer we would frequent the beach regularly, as did all our neighbours. I am happy to say that I still use Cregg to swim, often daily during the summer months. I have great memories associated with Cregg and continue to make memories there.

Many of our guests use Cregg. For walking, swimming, surfing etc. Students that use Cregg Beach as part of their studies have stayed with us. In the peak months of July and August most of our guests are families. Cregg is a very safe, sheltered beach for families. They walk to Cregg with their children, with no need for a car. It's less crowded than Lahinch Beach and gives families great freedom to let their children explore without losing site of them in a crowd. Children often collect small stones at Cregg which are great souvenirs to remind them of their time at the coast.

I am vehemently opposed to any of these surveys being carried out on Cregg Beach, because of their potential to ruin what is a pristine location. The application says almost nothing about the safety of the people who use this beach if permission for these surveys were to be granted.

What is proposed on and off the beach.

The applicant's response of 26 June 2026 describes trial pits on the shore at Cregg about 1.5 metres wide, 3 metres long and up to 4 metres deep, dug by excavator (page 7). Offshore, it describes a jack-up platform, a tug to move it into position, a crew transfer RIB, and a workboat (pages 9 and 12). Boreholes are to run for 24 to 36 hours each, with 24-hour working assumed (revised Natura Impact Statement, Table 2-1).

I can find no public safety plan in the application. Nothing says how the pits will be fenced or covered, whether any will be left open between tides or overnight, where the machinery will work or travel on the strand, or what exclusion zones will apply on the beach or on the water. A 4-metre hole in a beach used by children, or a jack-up platform and tug working in water used by surfers, swimmers etc is completely unacceptable.

I am formally asking MARA whether a documented public safety plan exists covering the excavations, machinery access, exclusion zones and what happens to the pits between tides or overnight?

The timing does not match the licence sought.

The application form states that "Survey timing will be planned to take advantage of favourable weather windows" while "avoiding peak marine tourism activity at Cregg Beach and periods of ecological sensitivity" (page 14). The surveys are "provisionally scheduled to take place from Q4 2026 to Q1 2027" (page 10). But the applicant seeks a licence for 24 months (page 10), which would allow the works to take place in any season, including the summer, when the beach and the bay are at their busiest. This is out of the question.

I am formally asking MARA why seasonal restrictions aren’t included in the licence?

Tourism

My business operates for 9 months of the year from February to October. Many more businesses in the area operate year-round. My guests use Cregg Beach throughout that period. Including university students that use it as part of their geography and marine biology studies. Beach closures, noise, machinery, and restricted access could directly affect my business and my guests. What long-term effects will these surveys have on tourism in the area? Damage to the reef from drilling could mean damage to the surfing business that Lahinch enjoys throughout the year.

What consideration if any have MARA or Uisce Eireann given to the potential affect their surveys will have on tourism businesses? The life blood of our small coastal community.



I'm sure whoever reads this will recognise the above blurb from the landing page of MARA's website.

Custodian

A custodian is a person or organization responsible for protecting, maintaining, or keeping something—such as physical property, financial assets, or legal responsibilities—in good condition.

I am appealing to you the reader as custodian of Cregg Beach to refuse MUL260006.

Uisce Eireann have already been granted maritime area consent under MAC260002.

Unfortunately, it's only in recent weeks all of this has come to the attention of our community. Uisce Eireann conducted a public consultation in May/June 2025. There was no mention of a sewerage plant in Callura or an outfall pipe at Cregg. The maps displayed at the consultation didn't even reach as far south as Callura. A couple of weeks after the consultation, landowners in the area were approached to sell their land for a new plant. They refused. In August of this year the same landowners were given written notice of Uisce Eireann's intention to survey their lands. At this point, the landowners informed their neighbours (myself included) about their concerns and in the weeks since their concerns have reached the wider community. I have seen the letters of notice.

I have little doubt in my mind that if the landowners hadn't come forward MUL260006 would have passed the community by. Ordinary citizens are not aware of these applications. I'm not saying they aren't advertised and that everything isn't conducted legitimately but in general most people are not aware.

If the ESB are doing work in your area a letter will come through your letterbox. If another semi-state such as Uisce Eireann are applying to conduct intrusive and potentially damaging surveys on your local beach, is it not only right that a similar courtesy should be extended to people living and working in that area? Why did I have to hear about all of this from my neighbours? They received letters that can be described as worrying at best. It's not too much of a stretch to describe them as threatening. They felt they needed to share these letters with their neighbours for some kind of rationalisation and support for what was happening to them. This is not acceptable in this day & age. These large infrastructure projects and the various applications needed to facilitate them need more transparency.

There is already effluent entering our bay in Liscannor. (Primary "treatment." Removal of solids only). If granted permission to survey at Cregg, Uisce Eireann will be one step closer to pumping more effluent (Proposed secondary treatment) into our bay.

As a community we have little power to stop this. You the reader, **custodian of Cregg Beach and Liscannor Bay**, absolutely can. I am asking you honestly to consider the power and responsibility you hold and make the right decision.

Cregg is a place where my family and the families that stay with us make memories. I ask MARA to refuse MUL260006 unless it is satisfied, based on documented evidence, that the proposed works can be undertaken without unacceptable risks to public safety, access to Cregg Beach and the livelihoods of those who depend on it. If granted, these surveys are the next step towards potential long-term damage to our bay. The ramifications of this could be felt for generations to come.

Yours respectfully,

[redacted]

References

Uisce Éireann, Maritime Usage Licence application form, MUL260006, pages 10 and 14. maritimeregulator.ie/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/MUL260006-Application-Form.pdf

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AQUAFACT, revised Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement, August 2026, Table 2-1. maritimeregulator.ie/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/MUL260006-Attachment-4.3-SISAA-Updated.pdf

MARA, Maritime Area Consent MAC260002, 10 July 2026. maritimeregulator.ie/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/MAC_MAC260002.pdf

I.T.A. Topographical and General Survey 1942/3, Lahinch, signed James Henchy, Surveyor, 20 July 1942 (Clare County Library). clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/ita_survey_1942/lahinch.htm