From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday 22 October 2026 12:27
To: MARA Licence
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Observations re Application MUL260006 Uisce Éireann

Categories: Filed to eDocs, Leeanne

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Dear MARA,

I am writing to MARA, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, to document my concerns about the proposed plans of Uisce Éireann to survey Liscannor Bay for a new sewage outfall pipe, coming ashore at Cregg. '*This 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.*'

I note from the MARA website that it is 'Acting as custodian and regulator of Ireland's maritime area, we aim to ensure that Ireland's marine environment is protected for the future through co-operation, compliance, enforcement and transparent decision making.' It is concerning and disturbing that it would support and approve a plan to continue to dump sewage or partially treated sewage into Liscannor Bay. Anything less than tertiary treated is an unacceptable risk to water quality and human health and life.

My mother was from Ennistymon, and I spent my summers in Clare every year until recently, when she passed away in 2020. I remember swimming at Cregg Beach as a small child and her telling me tales of her swimming there as a child. I also swam regularly in Lahinch and Clahane.

I now live in Dublin and sea swim regularly there. However, not as regularly as I might like as one has to keep any eye on the water quality and it is unsafe to swim for days around heavy rain showers.

It is concerning that Lahinch Beach has lost its blue flag (https://clarechampion.ie/blow-for-clare-tourism-as-lahinch-beach-loses-blue-flag-2/) and that MARA is proposing to act in collusion with Uisce Éireann to continue to risk the water quality of Liscannor Bay for generations to come. I fail to understand why MARA and Uisce Éireann think that it is acceptable to risk the health and well-being of Clare citizens and their visitors, and risk the water quality, the livelihoods, and the tourist trade for years to come. Upgrading the sewage treatment plant is a once in a generation infrastructure investment!

I have only recently become aware of this proposal through the advocacy of the

Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group, whom I am cc'ing on this email. For full and open disclosure I have also signed their petition. If Uisce Éireann is willing to put in a treatment plant in Kilfenora with tertiary filtration and UV disinfection, then obviously that is the minimum standard that they should adhere to for all future plants.

I am a practicing General Practitioner (GP), and I have treated patients with complications and illnesses caused by swimming in unclean water, some from foreign holidays, but unfortunately some from swimmers who picked up infections in Irish waters. Pumping partially treated sewage into Liscannor Bay threatens the reputation of Lahinch and the health and livelihoods of the residents of West Clare and their visitors. If there was any vision and forethought then for the sake of the environment a full treatment plant with surplus capacity for future population growth should be the bare minimum that people should expect. Have the health impacts of pumping partially treated sewage into Liscannor Bay been clearly documented in Uisce Eireann's submission? And if not, why not?

Should there be concern I am scaremongering I would like to draw your attention to a case of Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome cause by an EColi infection acquired by a 2 year old swimming in the sea in Lahinch in 2018, resulting in an Acute Kidney Injury requiring dialysis in Temple Street Children's - some details are documented here Hospital https://www.irishtimes.com/environment/2026/08/21/after-heavy-rain-we-stay-out-of-the-water-locals-fear-illness-from-pollution-in-lahinch/

This is not a case of NIMBYism, this project risks the delicate ecosystem of the West Clare coastline, which once damaged, may not recover. It is interesting and concerning that Aquafact in their report for Uisce Eireann dated January 2026, 'Surveys to inform construction of a WWTP outflow pipe at Liscannor Bay – Lahinch & Ennistymon Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species' did not reference The National Parks and Wildlife Services' 'Aerial thermal-imaging survey of seals in Ireland in August 2024', accessed here https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM158.pdf on 19/10/26. But it may not have suited their narrative.

I hope that MARA will take these concerns into account and consider them in conjunction with the community submission to MARA of the Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group. I appreciate if Uisce Eireann do change their plans and decide to upgrade the facility to a tertiary sewage treatment system there may be some works required in Cregg, but as it stands should MARA approve this proposal as it stands, it is tacit approval for Uisce Eireann to pump/dump secondary treated sewage for decades into Liscannor Bay.

I would be grateful if I could receive acknowledgement of my submission and receive updates on this application.

Yours faithfully

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