

18th August 2026

Donegal County Council,
County House,
The Diamond,
Lifford,
Co. Donegal,
F93 Y622

By email to: dobrien@ayesa.com cathalsweeney@donegalcoco.ie

CC: Laura Brien, CEO, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

Re: Update on MARA's assessment of Schedule 7 Maritime Usage Licence applications.

Dear Applicant,

I am writing to update you on MARA's assessment of Schedule 7 Maritime Usage Licence applications under Part 5 of the Maritime Area Planning Act, as amended. I am writing to all applicants whose application was made more than three months ago and who have not yet been advised to commence a public consultation in accordance with S.117(6)(b) of the Act where a determination was made that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required in respect of the application.

MARA has made significant progress in clearing the application backlog that arose when the Authority began operating. We now prioritise projects that support Critical State Infrastructure, including Offshore Renewable Energy projects, in line with Government policy. Some other applications have also been progressed where their scale and nature allowed assessment within available staff schedules. Such prioritisation is made with reference to the criteria set out in the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation (DPER) [Circular 18/2026 – Principles for Better Regulation for Critical Infrastructure Projects](#). Please note that this is separate to projects designated as critical infrastructure projects as provided for under the Critical Infrastructure Act 2026.

In respect of your application:

MUL260023

MARA considers that this application does not fall within the definition of Critical State Infrastructure.

Notwithstanding this, based on current application volumes, MARA estimates that your application will be brought to "Minded To" stage no later than the 1st quarter of 2027. Please note that this

seoladh:

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address:

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
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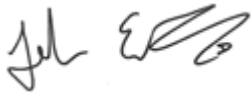
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estimate may be impacted by operational factors including the possibility that MARA receives applications connected to projects designated under the Critical Infrastructure Act, or applications that fall within the definition of Critical State Infrastructure as set out in DPER Circular 18/2026. MARA will write to you again should any such change in circumstance occur that would impact on this estimate.

Yours sincerely,



John Evans,

Director of Maritime Usage Licensing and Planning Advisory.

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