

**Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group**

Marine & Fisheries Division



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Our reference: **ML2022016**

Marine Licensing Branch

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Date: 26 January 2024

Dear Consultee,

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
REGULATIONS 2017 (as amended)  
EIA CONSENT DECISION FOR AN EXTENSION TO EXISTING SEA DEFENCES  
AT CURRAN STRAND, PORTRUSH**

Further to your response on the consultation for the above application, I am writing to advise you that the Department has determined in favour of granting an Environmental Impact Assessment Consent for this application.

The Department has considered the information provided to us as listed below:

1. Marine Licence Application Form
2. Site Location Plan
3. Location of Works
4. Environmental Statement
5. Construction and Environmental Management Plan
6. Further Assessment of Coastal Protection Options September 2022
7. Further Consideration of Coastal Protection Options August 2023
8. Planning Permission
9. EIA Screening Opinion
10. EIA Scoping Opinion

These documents remain available to view at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/marine-licence-ml2022016-currans-strand-portrush>

Our decision has been taken in accordance with all relevant marine plans and policies.

Further, the Department has given consideration to consultation responses from the following:

1. DAERA Marine Monitoring & Assessment Team
2. DAERA Marine Conservation & Reporting - Marine Wildlife
3. DAERA Marine Conservation & Reporting - Marine Archaeology
4. DAERA Marine Conservation & Reporting - Coastal Processes
5. NIEA Water Management Unit
6. NIEA Natural Environment Division (NED) - CDP
7. NIEA Natural Environment Division (NED) - Biodiversity Unit (Wildlife)
8. NIEA Natural Environment Division (NED) - Earth Sciences
9. Council for Nature Conservation & Countryside (CNCC)
10. The Commissioners of Irish Lights
11. The Crown Estate
12. Department for Economy
13. Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
14. University of Ulster School of Environmental Sciences
15. The National Trust
16. RSPB
17. The Royal and Ancient

We have granted an EIA Consent for this project; the EIA Consent Decision Report can be viewed at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/application-marine-licence-extension-existing-coastal-defence-currans-strand-portrush-notice>

The Department has determined that the potential environmental impacts of this proposal have been adequately identified, described and assessed in the EIA Consent Decision Report and that mitigation can be secured to allow the marine licence to be approved.

The main concerns expressed related to the possible exacerbation of coastal erosion due to the proposed structure. The concerns focused on coastal processes, climate change and nature conservation. Each of the topics are considered in detail within Section 6 of the EIA Consent Decision Report.

Section 6.1 covers Coastal Processes and sets out the requirement for mitigation to be included in the licence conditions. With regard to coastal processes, the licence conditions will require an Environmental Monitoring Plan to be agreed with the Department. This plan will allow for ongoing monitoring of the structure throughout its lifetime and will provide a mechanism through which the structure may be removed, if found to be having a significant environmental impact.

The Environmental Monitoring Plan also has regard to the concerns expressed over potential impacts on Climate Change on the coastline. Monitoring of the impacts of this structure will also help to address the concerns expressed in section 6.2 of the EIA Consent Decision Report regarding climate change.

Section 6.3 outlines the concerns relating to Biodiversity and Nature Conservation. Further to responses received during the consultation process, the marine licence will be conditioned to require the applicant to carry out relevant habitat surveys prior to work commencing, along with ensuring no work is undertaken during the bird breeding season.

Section 6.4 outlines the concerns relating to Water Quality and Section 6.6 the concerns relating to Cultural Heritage Assets.

If you are unclear about any aspect of this letter or the associated documentation please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Moore

**DAERA Marine & Fisheries Division**