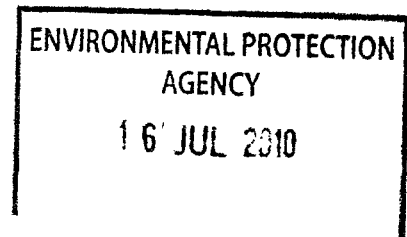


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14 July 2010



Ms Laura Burke
Chairperson
Dumping at sea Advisory Group
Environmental Protection Agency
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co Wexford

Dear Ms Burke,

I am writing to you with regard to an application by Arklow Harbour, for a Dumping at Sea licence to enable them to carry out dredging of the Harbour.

Without prejudice to the Environmental Protection Agency responsibilities in relation to the issue of licences and acknowledging the ongoing work pressures facing the Agency, we would be obliged if early consideration could be given to Arklow Harbour's application for a Dumping at Sea licence.

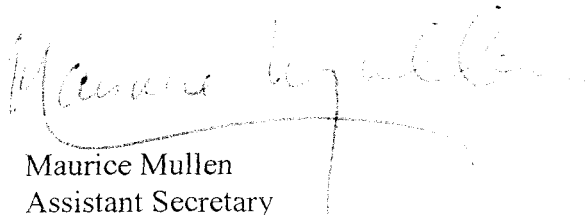
Significant funding of €500,000 has been allocated by this Department in 2010 to provide for dredging as part of the funding that is allocated by the Department for remedial works in the Regional Harbours which operate under the provision of the Harbours Act 1946.

The application for a dredging licence was first submitted in February 2007 and funding was allocated on the basis that the licence would be granted early in 2010. The funding to finance this work is available in the Department's budget for 2010 and is only paid out on completion of work and receipt of invoices. Work needs to be undertaken without delay so that invoices can be forwarded to the Department at the earliest opportunity. The last day for submitting invoices is 29 November 2010.

There is an urgent need to dredge the river, the turning basin and the dock, to cater for the users of the harbour, and in order to carry out basic infrastructure works some of which are now near a state of collapse and are therefore a cause for concern with regard to safety. The RNLI who operate a lifeboat from a facility in the Dock are very concerned that the lack of dredging in the area could compromise the operation of the lifeboat. The lack of dredging is seriously impacting on the business of the Harbour and the business' of Harbour users. Failure to dredge is having a significant impact on the commercial operations of the port.

The earliest consideration of this application would therefore be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maurice Mullen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Maurice Mullen
Assistant Secretary
Maritime Transport Division

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