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14th October 2016

IW-ER-LT0322

Dear Karen,

**RE: Kinsale Waste Water Discharge Licence - Technical Amendment Application
D0132-01**

The Agency issued a Wastewater Discharge Licence for the Kinsale Agglomeration (D0132-01) on the 3rd July 2014. Irish Water now requests a Technical Amendment under Section 33 (1) of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, to amend *Schedule A.3 Storm Water Overflows*. The proposed changes to *Schedule A.3* are detailed below.

Irish Water has identified seven SWOs within the agglomeration - at the plant and in the network - five of which are not currently included by the Licence. Please note that all seven storm water overflows can act as an emergency overflow when there is a power failure or other similar interruption in the normal operation which may result in untreated wastewater being discharged. There are no new pumping stations to add to those which were included in the original application.

Irish Water has had regard to the EPA's publication *EPA Guidance for Irish Water on Requests for Alterations to a Waste Water Discharge Licence or Certificate of Authorisation* in compiling this submission for a Technical Amendment.

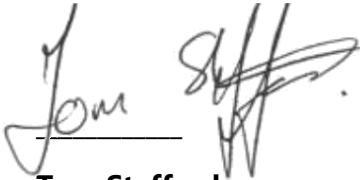
The additional five storm water overflows discharge to the same water body (where the characteristics of the receiving water are similar, including the proximity of Natura 2000 sites) as the discharges which are already issued in WWDL D0132-01.

A screening report for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken in relation to all seven of the Storm Water Overflows (Emergency Overflows) and which determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Please find enclosed:

1. Proposed Schedule A3 Storm Water Overflow
2. Changes from Existing WWDL
3. Map of Stormwater Overflow Locations
4. Appropriate Assessment Screening

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Stafford', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Stafford
Environmental Regulation Manager

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Appendix 1. Proposed Schedule A3 Storm Water Overflow

Licence Code	Discharge Location	Storm Water Overflow Location	Name of Receiving Water	WFD Code reciving Water
SW002	Summer Cove	165478E, 049761N	Lower Bandon Estuary Transitional waterbody <i>For inspection purposes only. Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.</i>	(WFD Code: IE_SW_080_0100)
SW003	Scilly	164236E, 050240N		
SW006	Emmet Place	163971E, 050374N		
SW007	Pier Road	164168E, 050069N		
SW008	Causeway	163040E, 049563N		
SW010	Gibbons Quay	164237E, 049811N		
SW011	World's End	164249E, 049705N		

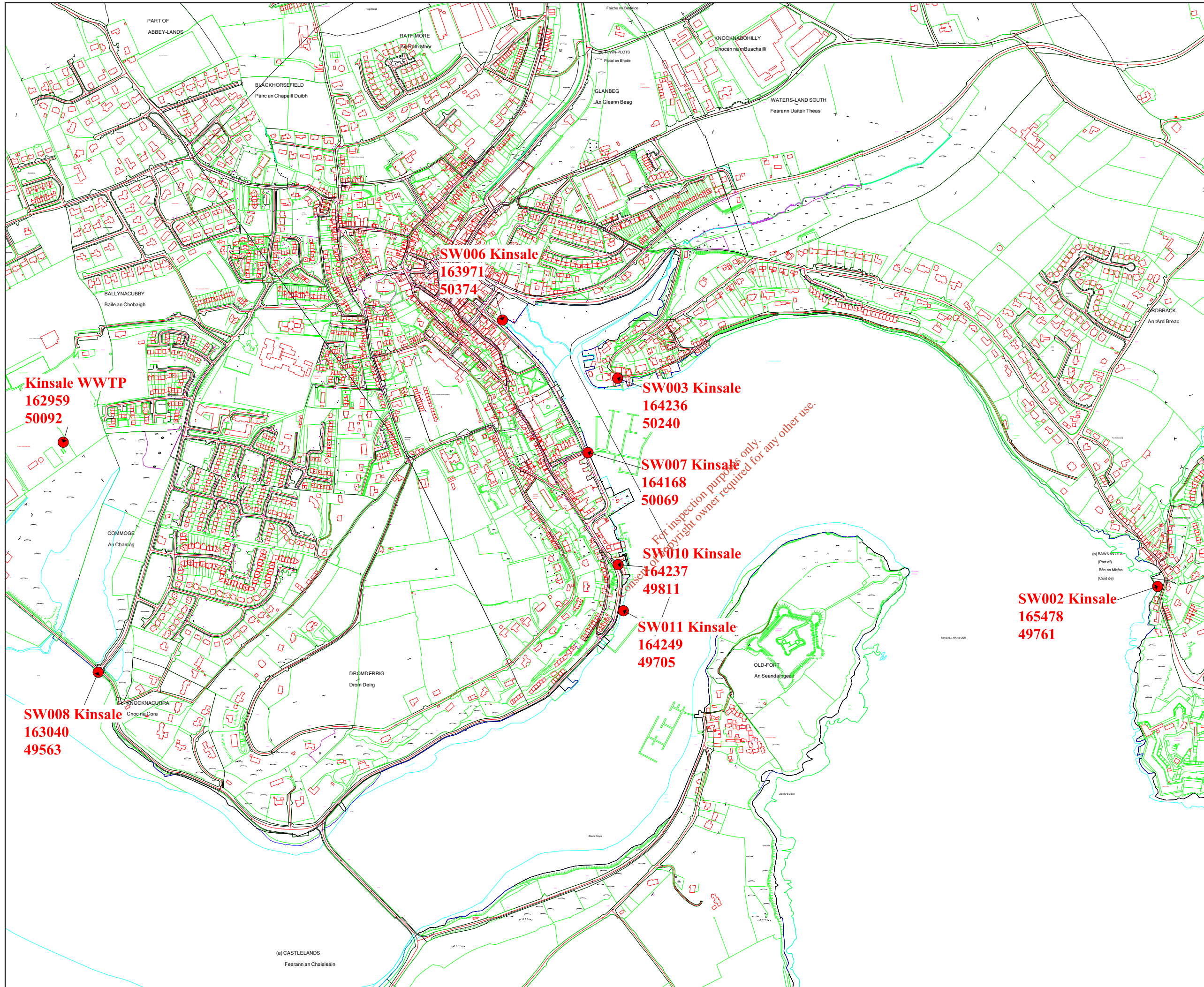
Appendix 2. Changes from Existing WWDL

Ref Code	Location Name	Grid Coordinates	Change from Existing WWDL
SW002	Summer Cove	165478E, 049761N	Location name corrected from Denis' Quay to Summercove. Coordinates corrected. SWO for Summer Cove P.S.
SW003	Scilly	164236E, 050240N	Not in existing WWDL. SWO for Scilly P.S.
SW006	Emmet Place	163971E, 050374N	Wrong location (World's End) in WWDL. SWO for Denis' Quay P.S. ¹ if Pier Rd. line is blocked. SW006 is an outlet for a culverted stream.
SW007	Pier Road	164168E, 050069N	Not in existing WWDL. Activated if Denis Quay P.S. SW010 and SW006 are hydraulic overloaded ¹ .
SW008	Causeway	163040E, 049563N	Not in existing WWDL. SWO from WwTP storm tanks.
SW010	Gibbons' Quay	164237E, 049811N	Not in existing WWDL, SWO from Denis' Quay P.S. ¹ if Denis Quay P.S. Storm Tanks X3 overflow.
SW011	World's End	164249E, 049705N	In existing WWDL as SW006, Coordinates corrected. SWO from World's End P.S.

Note 1: The order of activation of the SWOs for Denis Quay P.S. is SW010 first – SW006 second – SW007 third depending on length of storm event.

Appendix 3. Map of Stormwater Overflow Locations

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Legend




- SW002 Kinsale: Summer Cove
- SW003 Kinsale: Scilly
- SW006 Kinsale: Emmet Place
- SW007 Kinsale: Pier Road
- SW008 Kinsale: The Causeway
- SW010 Kinsale: Gibbons Quay
- SW011 Kinsale: Worlds End

No Window

Project
Kinsale Main Drainage Scheme
 Kinsale, Co. Cork

Title
Location of Storm Water Overflows

 Helena O'Riordan
 Waste Water Operations (Pumping & Treatment)
 Cork County Council
 Floor 11, County Hall,
 Cork

Issue Details			
Drawn: L. Layton	Project No. xxxx		
Checked: J. Coughlan	File Ref.		
Approved: xxxx	xxxx		
Scale: Not To Scale	Drawing No.	Rev.	
Date: 12.10.2016	xxxx	01	

Notes
 Not To Scale. Use co-ordinates only to locate exact locations, if in doubt ask.

Appendix 4. Appropriate Assessment Screening

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Irish Water Report

Appropriate Assessment Screening as part of the Kinsale Waste
Water Discharge Licence Technical Amendment
WWDL Reg. No. D0132-01

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Introduction

This report provides an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening of overflows from the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant (WwTP) and network at Kinsale, Co Cork, for the purposes of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007), as amended. It assesses whether the on-going operation of the overflow, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site(s). Natura 2000 Sites are those identified as sites of European Community importance designated as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive or as Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive.

This report follows the guidance for AA published by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 'Note on Appropriate Assessments for the purposes of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007)' (EPA, 2009); and takes account of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's guidelines 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2009) and Circular L8/08 'Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes – Protection of Natural Heritage and National Monuments' (DoEHLG, 2008).

Legislative Context

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as "The Habitats Directive", provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC) as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

Article 6(4) states:

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

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Methodology

Guidance Followed

Both EU and national guidance exists in relation to Member States fulfilling their requirements under the EU Habitats Directive, with particular reference to Article 6(3) and 6(4) of that Directive. The methodology followed in relation to this AA Screening has had regard to the following guidance:

- Note on Appropriate Assessments for the purposes of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007). Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA, 2009).
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (DoEHLG, 2010).
- Circular L8/08 – Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes – Protection of Natural Heritage and National Monuments. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (DoEHLG, 2008).
- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, (EC, 2000a).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, (EC, 2000b).
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Brussels (EC, 2001).
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the Commission. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, (EC, 2007).
- Nature and biodiversity cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2006).
- Marine Natura Impact Statements in Irish Special Areas of Conservation: A working document, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin (NPWS, 2012).
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No.477 of 2011).

- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission (EC, 2013).

Stages Involved in the Appropriate Assessment Process

Stage 1: Screening / Test of Significance

This process identifies whether the overflows are directly connected to or necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 Site(s); and identifies whether the overflow is likely to have significant impacts upon a Natura 2000 Site(s) either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

The output from this stage is a determination for each Natura 2000 Site(s) of not significant, significant, potentially significant, or uncertain effects. The latter three determinations will cause that site to be brought forward to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

This stage considers the impact of the overflows on the integrity of a Natura 2000 Site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to (1) the site's conservation objectives; and (2) the site's structure and function and its overall integrity. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts

The output from this stage is a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). This document must include sufficient information for the EPA to carry out the appropriate assessment. If the assessment is negative, i.e. adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded, then the process must consider alternatives (Stage 3) or proceed to Stage 4.

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternatives

This process examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 Site. This assessment may be carried out concurrently with Stage 2 in order to find the most appropriate solution. If no alternatives exist or all alternatives would result in negative impacts to the integrity of the Natura 2000 Sites then the process either moves to Stage 4 or the project is abandoned.

Stage 4: Assessment Where Adverse Impacts Remain

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Stage 1: Screening / Test of Significance

In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and following the appropriate guidelines, this AA Screening has been structured as a stage by stage approach as follows:

- Description of the project;
- Identification of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected;
- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result;
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified above on site integrity;
- Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects; and
- Screening conclusion.

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Screening

Description of the Project

Kinsale, a popular tourist town, is situated 16km south of Cork City. Irish Water holds a Waste Water Discharge Licence (Register No. D0132-01) in respect of the agglomeration of Kinsale. The licence was granted on the 3rd of July 2014. A new WwTP was commissioned in February 2011 and is designed to cater for a population equivalent (p.e.) of 9,800.

The treatment process includes the following:

- Preliminary treatment (including screening / grit removal)
- Secondary treatment - SBR
- Ferric sulphate dosing for phosphorus removal
- Tertiary treatment – UV treatment

This assessment relates to the addition of a number of WwTP/network overflows to the licence. There are seven Storm Water Overflows within the Kinsale agglomeration - one from the WwTP and six on the network. All SWOs are described in Table 1.0. All SWOs can potentially act as Emergency Overflows in the event of pump failure. The location of the overflows is shown in Figure 1.0.

Table 1.0: Storm Water and Emergency Overflows

Licence Code	Discharge Location	Storm Water Overflow Location	Name of Receiving Water	WFD Code receiving Water
SW002	Summer Cove	165478E, 049761N	Lower Bandon Estuary Transitional waterbody	(WFD Code: IE_SW_080_0100)
SW003	Scilly	164236E, 050240N		
SW006	Emmet Place	163971E, 050374N		
SW007	Pier Road	164168E, 050069N		
SW008	Causeway	163040E, 049563N		
SW010	Gibbons Quay	164237E, 049811N		
SW011	World's End	164249E, 049705N		

The current mean population equivalent for the agglomeration is 5,754 (2015 AER). Emission Limit Values (ELV's) set by Schedule A of the EPA licence for the primary discharge point are 20mg/l BOD, 125mg/l COD, 35mg/l TSS, 1mg/l Orthophosphate and 5mg/l Ammonia. Effluent data for the primary discharge from 2016 is presented in Table 2.0 together with the ELVs. Exceedances of ELVs are highlighted in bold font, however only those in red are non-compliant with the licence conditions following condition 2.1.

Table 2.0: Kinsale WwTP Effluent Monitoring Data

Date	BOD	COD	SS	Ammonia	Total Nitrogen	Orthophosphate	Total Phosphorus	TON
	25	125	35	5	15	1	2	10
13/01/2016	1.9	10.5	3	1	2.7	0.4	0.48	0.25
04/02/2016	3.9	21	6	0.8	4.63	0.79	0.87	2.63
03/03/2016	5	10.5	12	2.1	4.98	0.3	0.39	2.12
04/05/2016	5.5	51	5	16.4	21.4	0.76	0.87	0.25
01/06/2016	1.5	43	6	14.4	18	0.47	0.6	0.5
06/07/2016	2.3	59	11	6.5	7.38	0.39	0.25	0.25
03/08/2016	13	92	83	4.1	12.7	2.08	2.35	0.25

Description of the Receiving Environment and Monitoring Results

Monitoring data from three EPA sampling locations in 2014 is presented in Table 3.0, with locations shown in Figure 1.0. All results indicate that water quality in the outer harbour area is compliant with relevant standards set by the Surface Water Regulations S.I. No. 272 of 2009.

In terms of Water Framework Directive Status¹, the transitional waters of the Lower Bandon Estuary are assigned Moderate status and are 'at risk of not achieving good status', while the coastal waters of Kinsale harbour and inshore waters are assigned Good status, and further offshore the Celtic sea is assigned High status. The EPA (water quality status 2010-2012) class the coastal waters (south of Sally Port/Knockroe) as Unpolluted, while transitional waters of the Bandon river estuary as classed as Eutrophic. The Bandon/Stick Water Management Unit Action Plan² 2010 identifies that 90% of total phosphorus in the catchment is from unsewered industry, with 2% from WwTPs and 7% from agriculture. While the Kinsale WwTP is highlighted as a risk in the Action Plan, this pre-dates the upgrade of the WwTP in 2011.

The closest bathing waters are at Garretstown and Garrylucas White Strand in Courtmacsherry Bay which are classed as Good and Excellent respectively. The Kinsale agglomeration discharges to within 50m of the boundary of the Kinsale Shellfish Area (a class B area for oysters from Shronecan Point to Preghane point). The Kinsale Pollution Reduction Programme (Revised/Updated) identifies the WwTP as a key pressure, but this was published prior to the commissioning of the current WwTP which now provides UV treatment of the discharge. The

¹ <http://gis.epa.ie/Envision/>

² http://wfdireland.ie/docs/1_River%20Basin%20Management%20Plans%202009%20-%202015/SWRBD%20RBMP%202010/Water%20Management%20Unit%20Action%20Plans/Bandon%20Stick.pdf

potential impact of the plant and network on shellfish was assessed in the EIS³ for the scheme which found that water quality with respect to coliforms would be significantly improved by the scheme.

Table 3.0: Kinsale Outer Harbour Monitoring Data

Station No	Date Surveyed	Depth Sample	Salinity	DO %	BOD	PO4	chl_a	DIN
EQS				80-120	≤4.0 ²	≤40µg/l (35 psu) ³	≤10µg/l	0.25-2.6 mg/l ¹
BN120	12/06/2014	0	31.88	93.5	0.5	12	2	0.176
BN120	12/06/2014	12.8	34.32	91.7	0.5	8	2.2	0.07
BN120	01/09/2014	0	34.25	90.1	0.5	13	2.2	0.073
BN120	01/09/2014	14.69	34.91	87.2	0.5	9	1.5	0.059
BN120	10/07/2014	0	34.01	109.8	0.5	2.5	2.5	0.02
BN120	10/07/2014	13.1	34.53	107.4	0.5	2.5	2.5	0.02
BN130	12/06/2014	0	32.72	96.3	-	8	2.3	0.123
BN130	12/06/2014	17.7	34.48	88.2	-	9	2.2	0.076
BN130	01/09/2014	0	34.47	91.1	-	14	1.6	0.071
BN130	01/09/2014	16.59	34.93	85.4	-	14	1.6	0.071
BN130	10/07/2014	0	34.3	110.9	0.5	2.5	2.7	0.023
BN130	10/07/2014	16.8	34.58	105.2	0.5	2.5	2.7	0.023
BN140	12/06/2014	0	32.47	99	0.5	6	2.4	0.129
BN140	12/06/2014	16.9	34.44	90	0.5	10	1.9	0.066
BN140	01/09/2014	0	34.63	92	0.5	11	1.8	0.058
BN140	01/09/2014	19.62	34.95	85	0.5	14	1.1	0.09
BN140	10/07/2014	0	34.13	113.5	0.5	2.5	2.7	0.021
BN140	10/07/2014	16.5	34.58	107.8	0.5	2.5	2.7	0.021

Note 1: The Surface Water Regulations specify standards for Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) in seawater (34.5psu) as follows: Good status <0.25mg/l; and <2.6mg/l (Good status) for 0 psu salinity water, with linear interpolation between these salinity levels.

Note 2: Value for transitional waters.

Note 3: Ortho-P compared to EQS limit value for Molybdate Reactive Phosphorus (MRP) for transitional water body. Note that Orthophosphate measured on unfiltered samples may give a slightly higher reading than MRP.

³ Malachy Walsh & Partners (1999) Kinsale Sewerage Scheme EIS. Report for Cork County Council and Kinsale Urban District Council.

Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Sites

This section of the screening process describes the Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the additional overflow locations. A 15km buffer zone has been chosen as a precautionary measure, to ensure that all potentially affected Natura 2000 sites are included in the screening process, which is in line with Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities produced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Table 4.0 lists the SACs and Table 5.0 lists the SPAs that are within 15km of the additional overflow locations, and Figure 1.0 shows their location in relation to the Kinsale overflows. The qualifying interests/special conservation interests of each of the identified Natura 2000 Sites is also provided.

Table 4.0: SACs located within 15km of Kinsale overflows

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualify Species
001230	Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	<p>Estuaries [1130]</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</p> <p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p>	

Table 5.0: SPAs located within 15km of Kinsale overflows

Site Code	Site Name	Special Conservation Interests
004124	Sovereign Islands SPA	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]
004021	Old Head of Kinsale SPA	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]
004219	Courtmacsherry Bay SPA	Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

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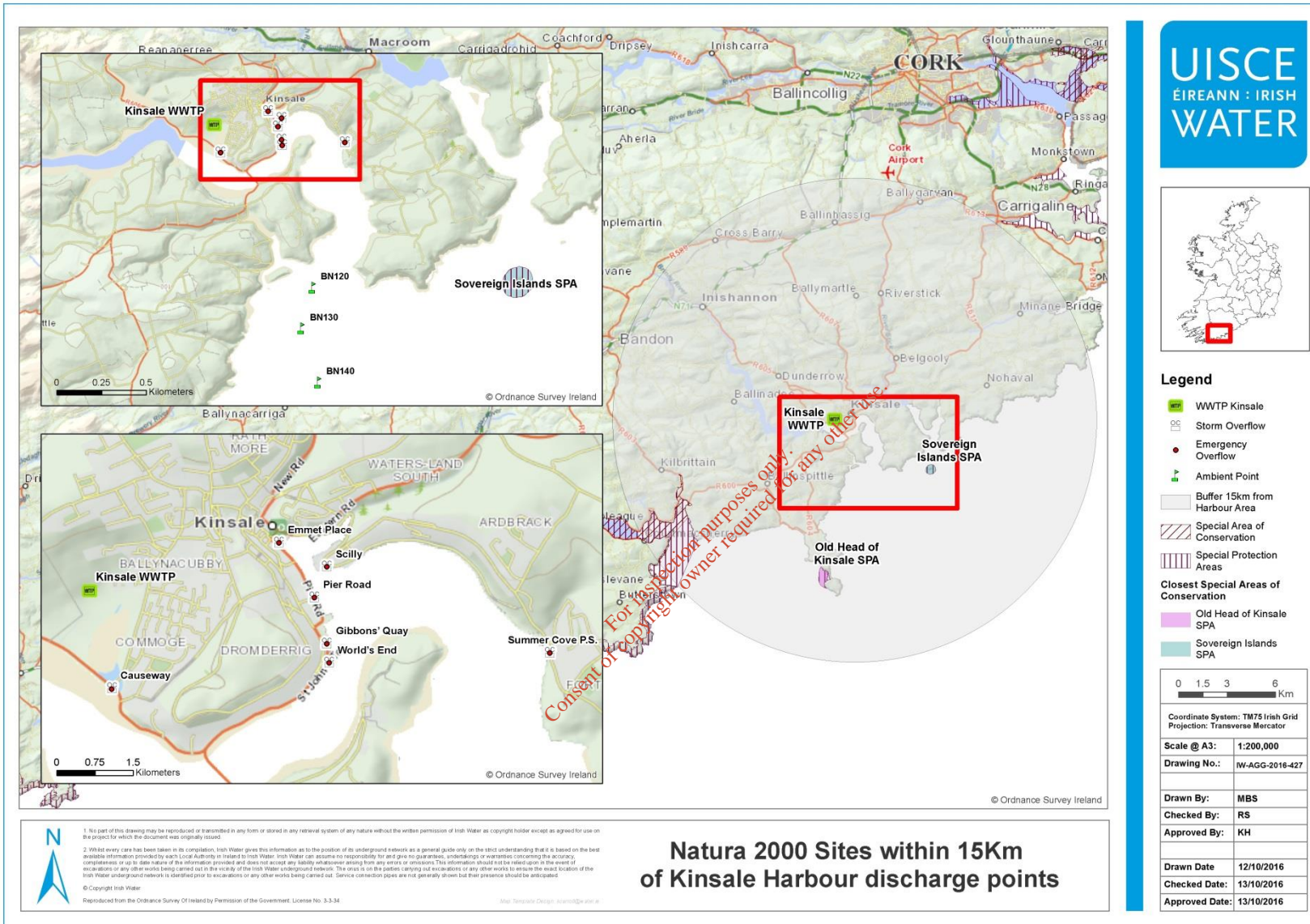


Figure 1.0: Natura 2000 Sites Map

Possible Effects of the Kinsale Overflows on Natura 2000 Sites

The purpose of this section of the screening is to examine the possibility that the overflows, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, may result in significant negative effects on the Conservation Objectives and the integrity of the Natura 2000 Sites identified.

The most apparent potential risk to a Natura 2000 Site(s) from a WwTP overflow is to the water quality of the receiving environment, and if the receiving environments water quality has the potential to interact with the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 Sites identified. Using the source-pathway-receptor model, only the special conservation interests of Sovereign Islands SPA and Old Head of Kinsale SPA were considered to have potential connectivity to the Kinsale overflows and Courtmacsherry Bay SPA and Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC are not considered further.

The Conservation Objectives of these sites were reviewed as part of this Screening Assessment:

- NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Old Head of Kinsale SPA [004021]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Sovereign Islands SPA [004124]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Kinsale WwTP and network overflows are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation.

Direct, Indirect or Secondary Impacts

Sovereign Island SPA and Old Head of Kinsale SPA are designated for breeding seabird populations. If significant pollution were to impact fish species on which these birds prey, then there could be the potential to adversely affect the designated seabird populations. This impact is not considered likely to arise. Firstly the SPAs are located in coastal waters classified as Unpolluted or High status and at a distance from the overflow discharge points. The closest overflow SW002 is over 5km from the closest SPA site via coastal waters. Secondly, although the inner harbour is classed as Eutrophic, current (2014) ambient monitoring results indicate that the outer harbour area complies with surface water regulations standards. Finally, while effluent monitoring indicates exceedances have occurred and there are seven overflows into Kinsale Harbour and the Lower Bandon river, any localised elevated nutrient levels are unlikely to affect the nutrient status in coastal waters given the significant dispersal and dilution provided by these waters. Pollution or eutrophication are not identified by NPWS as a threat/pressure for either SPA. No significant effects to Cormorant, Kittiwake or Guillemot populations associated with these SPAs, their cliff habitats, or the prey species on which they rely, are predicted.

In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007) the waste water discharged from the Kinsale overflows does not have the potential to impact the relevant special conservation interests identified, and therefore will not affect the conservation objectives of Sovereign Islands SPA or Old Head of Kinsale SPA. No significant

adverse impacts on the Special Conservation Interests are anticipated as a result of the overflows from Kinsale WwTP/network.

No significant adverse impacts on the qualifying interests of the remaining Natura 2000 Sites identified within 15km of the overflow discharge location are considered likely due to the dilution and dispersion provided by intervening coastal waters for these remote coastal SAC and SPA sites.

Possible Cumulative Impacts with other Plans and Projects in the Area

As part of Stage 1 Screening, in addition to the overflows, other relevant projects and plans in the relevant region must also be considered. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant effects on the Natura 2000 Sites from the waste water discharge in-combination or cumulative with other plans and projects. Existing plans which have been examined include:

- Cork County Development Plan 2015-2021;
- Bandon/Stick Management Unit Action Plan 2010; and
- County Cork Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014.

The above plans have been assessed in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, and are not envisaged to result in significant effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

The potential cumulative/in-combination impacts with the existing licenced Kinsale WwTP and wastewater network were also considered. Appropriate Assessment Screening of the WwTP and previously-listed overflows was undertaken by the competent authority and it was concluded there would be no adverse effects on any Natura 2000 site. While exceedances have occurred for some ELV's, such additional nutrients have no potential to affect the seabird populations of the coastal SPA sites.

Cork County Council online planning maps were reviewed for any significant developments that have the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts. A number of marina developments in the harbour have been granted permission in recent years (Ref 135698, Ref 126359), which have potential to impact local water quality, however any such impacts are unlikely to contribute to significant effects on any Natura 2000 site with the Kinsale overflows given the distance to the closest sites.

Screening Assessment

Table 6.0 provides a summary of the likely significant impact of the current overflow discharge on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites identified in Tables 4.0 and 5.0 potentially linked to the Kinsale WwTP overflows.

Table 6.0: Potential Significant Impacts on Natura 2000 sites from the Kinsale Overflows

Site Name	Direct Impacts	Indirect/ Secondary	Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.)	Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)	Excavation Requirements	Transportation Requirements	Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning
Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
Sovereign Islands SPA	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
Old Head of Kinsale SPA	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest
Courtmacsherry Bay SPA	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest	No impact on qualifying interest

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Likely Changes to the Natura 2000 Site(s)

The likely changes that will arise from the Kinsale overflow discharges have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the conservation objectives and overall integrity of the identified Natura 2000 Sites. Overall, it has been found that the current overflow discharges will not affect the integrity of the identified Natura 2000 Sites.

Table 7.0: Likely Affect on Natura 2000 Sites

Site Name	Reduction of Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Habitat or Species Fragmentation	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.)	Climate Change
Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None
Sovereign Islands SPA	None	None	None	None	None	None
Old Head of Kinsale SPA	None	None	None	None	None	None
Courtmacsherry Bay SPA	None	None	None	None	None	None

Elements of the Project where the Impacts are Likely to be Significant

No elements of the current overflow discharges are likely to cause significant impacts on NATURA 2000 Sites.

Screening Conclusions and Statement

The likely impacts that will arise from the current Kinsale overflow discharges have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. None of the sites within 15km of the discharge location will be adversely affected. A finding of No Significant Effects Matrix has been completed and is presented in the next section of this Screening Statement.

On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 Sites, it is concluded that the current overflow discharges from the Kinsale WwTP/network will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network alone, or in-combination with other plans/projects, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Finding of No Significant Effects Report Matrix

Name of project or plan	Kinsale Technical Amendment – Assessment of Overflows
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	Sovereign Islands SPA Old Head of Kinsale SPA
Description of the project or plan	<p>Irish Water holds a Waste Water Discharge Licence (Register No. D0132-01) in respect of the agglomeration of Kinsale. The licence was granted on the 3rd of July 2014. A new WwTP was commissioned in February 2011 and is designed to cater for a population equivalent (p.e.) of 9,800.</p> <p>The treatment process includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary treatment (including screening / grit removal) • Secondary treatment - SBR • Ferric sulphate dosing for phosphorus removal • Tertiary treatment – UV treatment <p>This assessment relates to the addition of a number of WwTP/network overflows to the licence. There are 7 existing overflows, 5 of which are not currently listed in the licence.</p>
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No.
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?	No.
The Assessment of Significance of Effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the European Site(s).	Sovereign Island SPA and Old Head of Kinsale SPA are designated for breeding seabird populations. If significant pollution were to impact fish species on which these birds prey, then there could be the potential to adversely affect the designated seabird populations. This impact is not considered likely to arise.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant.	Sovereign Island SPA and Old Head of Kinsale SPA are designated for breeding seabird populations. If significant pollution were to impact fish species on which these birds prey, then there could be the potential to adversely affect the designated seabird populations. This impact is not considered likely to arise. Firstly the SPAs are located in coastal waters classified as Unpolluted or High status and at a distance from the overflow discharge points. The closest overflow SW002

	is over 5km from the closest SPA site via coastal waters. Secondly, although the inner harbour is classed as Eutrophic, current (2014) ambient monitoring results indicate that the outer harbour area complies with surface water regulations standards. Finally, while effluent monitoring indicates exceedances have occurred and there are seven overflows into Kinsale Harbour and the Lower Bandon river, any localised elevated nutrient levels are unlikely to affect the nutrient status in coastal waters given the significant dispersal and dilution provided by these waters. Pollution or eutrophication are not identified by NPWS as a threat/pressure for either SPA. No significant effects to Cormorant, Kittiwake or Guillemot populations associated with these SPAs, their cliff habitats, or the prey species on which they rely, are predicted.
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address.	N/A
Response to consultation.	N/A
Data Collected to Carry Out the Assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	Qualified Ecologist, Irish Water
Sources of data	NPWS database; EPA database; WFD Ireland database; and Information from Irish Water.
Level of assessment completed	Desktop survey
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?	EPA
Overall Conclusion	Stage 1 Screening indicates that the Kinsale WwTP overflows will not have a significant negative impact on the Natura 2000 network alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects.. Therefore, a Stage 2 'Appropriate Assessment' under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC is not required.