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On behalf of Irish Water



20 September 2022

Reg. No. D0468-02

**Re: Appropriate Assessment in respect of a licence review from Irish Water in respect of the agglomeration named Castletownshend**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I refer to your application for a licence review in respect of the agglomeration named Castletownshend.

I am to advise you in accordance with Regulation 42(8)(a) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, that the EPA has made a determination that an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Notification of this determination is attached for your reference.

The application and all associated correspondence are available to view on the EPA website at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie). You are advised to refer to the website for information on the progress of the application.

If you have any further queries, please contact [licensing@epa.ie](mailto:licensing@epa.ie).

Yours faithfully,

Environmental Licensing Programme  
Office of Environmental Sustainability  
Tel: 053 – 9160600

## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

In accordance with Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, the Agency has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Sites listed below.

### Consent Details:

<b>Reg. No.</b>	D0468-02
<b>Applicant Name:</b>	Irish Water
<b>Type of Consent Sought:</b>	Review of a wastewater discharge licence
<b>Location of agglomeration:</b>	Castletownshend, Cork
<b>Licence Review Application Date:</b>	12/11/2021
<b>European Sites assessed:</b>	Castletownshend SAC (Site Code: 001547)
	Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC (Site Code: 000101)
	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC (Site Code: 000097)
	Myross Wood SAC (Site Code: 001070)
	Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC (Site Code: 001061)
	Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (Site Code: 004156)
	Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA (Site Code: 004190)
<b>Date of AA Screening Determination:</b>	20/09/2022

**AA Screening Determination:**

That the activities are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site and that it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European site and accordingly determined that an Appropriate Assessment of the activities was not required.

This determination has been made in light of the following reasons:

The proposed discharges are considered to have no impact on the qualifying interests of; Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC; Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC; Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA; Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC; and Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA. This is due to both the large distance between the SACs/SPAs and the proposed discharges and the positive dilution factor of the receiving coastal environment.

The determination is also based on the fact that the receiving waters of Rosscarbery Bay (IE\_SW\_110\_0000) into which the proposed discharge will take place is currently assigned "Good" water quality status under the 2013-2018 Water Framework Directive (WFD) reporting period.

The proposed treated discharges, which are of a small scale due to the Castletownshend agglomeration's low population equivalent (10-year design PE of 531), will also result in a positive impact on the receiving water quality due to the removal of untreated wastewater discharges.

This determination is also based on the fact that the proposed discharges will not affect the population trend or the productivity rate of any qualifying interest species of the Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA or Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA. The breeding sites and habitats of the qualifying interest species will not be disrupted due to the proposed discharges.

As Myross Wood SAC and Castletownshend SAC both have one qualifying interest which is terrestrial (1421 Killarney Fern), there is no hydrological or hydrogeological connection between the proposed discharges and the qualifying interests.

Information in relation to European Sites is available on [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie).

Olivia Keoghan  
Office of Environmental Sustainability

Date: 20/09/2022