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Mr. Jimmy O'Brien,
O'Brien Farms,
Ballintubber,
Carrigtwohill,
Co. Cork.
T45 TK40.

4 January 2022

Re; Pig Unit at Annistown, Killeagh, Planning Ref. 12/6635 & 18/6052.

Dear Jimmy,

I refer to your query regarding the classification of pigs on the above pig unit. I understand that the EPA are reviewing the licence for this unit & are asking that the Planning Authority would confirm that the planning permission granted provides for 12,400 production pigs.

The original planning application 12/6635 was for a 1,500 sow fully integrated pig unit as per the following extract from p. 12 of the EIS;

2.1.2 The proposal will accommodate a 1,500 sow fully integrated pig production unit, bringing the carrying capacity to 450 farrowing sows, 1050 dry sows, 9,000 weaners, 9,000 fatteners, 400 gilts and 10 boars. The proposed development entails the demolition of the existing outdated facilities on site and replacing them with modern state of the art facilities, it will also involve consolidating the existing enterprise as the practice of transporting weaners to a leased fattening facility 20 miles away will be discontinued. The development will improve management efficiency and also improve bio-security and herd productivity.

In the original planning application pigs were classified as weaners up to a weight of 45kg, after that they were classified as finishers.

This resulted in a nominal approx. 9,000 weaners & 9,000 finishing pigs being on the unit at any one time based on these designations.

In addition there were 400 gilts proposed, (gilts are young female pigs prior to having their first litter of piglets).

The current EPA classification for pigs classifies pigs up to 30kg as weaners, & above 30kg as production pigs. Gilts are now also classed as production pigs.

This results in the classification of pigs on this pig unit changing to 6,000 weaners & 12,400 production pigs, (plus the 1,500 sows which give birth to the pigs on the unit).

I am satisfied that this change in classification does not change anything about the way the unit operates, it does not increase or decrease overall numbers on the pig unit, or pigs produced from the pig unit.