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Ms. Sheelagh Flanagan
On behalf of Irish Water



14 November 2022

Reg. No. D0426-02

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

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

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 European sites. 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. 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.

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:

Reg. No.	D0426-02
Applicant Name:	Irish Water
Type of Consent Sought:	Review of a waste water discharge licence
Location of agglomeration:	Dripsey, Cork
Review Licence Application Date:	23 December 2021
European Sites assessed:	Cork Harbour SPA (Site Code: 004030)
	Great Channel Islands SAC (Site Code: 001058)
	The Gearagh SAC (Site Code: 000108)
	The Gearagh SPA (Site Code: 004109)
Date of AA Screening Determination:	14 November 2022

AA Screening Determination:

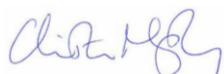
That the activities are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site and that it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European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

1. The Dripsey River (IE_SW_19D060400), the receiving waterbody for waste water discharges from the agglomeration, is currently assigned 'Good' water quality status under the 2013-2018 Water Framework Directive (WFD) reporting period.
2. The proposed treated discharges are of a small scale due to the Dripsey agglomeration's low design population equivalent (p.e.) of 600 p.e.
3. While Cork Harbour SPA and the Great Channel Islands SAC are hydrologically connected to the proposed discharges, the proposed discharges are considered to have no impact on the qualifying interests of the European sites due to the large distances (30km and 34km downstream, respectively) between the discharges and the sites and due to the positive dilution capacity of the River Lee which flows into Cork Harbour.
4. The Gearagh SAC is not hydrologically or hydrogeologically connected with the proposed discharges because the European site is located along the River Lee, approximately 21km upstream of the confluence of the Dripsey River and the River Lee.

5. The Gearagh SPA is located 16km from the proposed discharges and it is considered that there will be no impact on the population trend or the productivity rate of any qualifying interest species of the site due to the proposed discharges. The breeding sites, foraging sites and habitats of the qualifying interest species will not be disturbed due to the proposed discharges.

Documents relating to the review licence application are available on the Agency's website at www.epa.ie



Christine Murphy
Office of Environmental Sustainability

Date: 14/11/2022