



Headquarters

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Ireland

**Industrial Emissions Licence  
Recommended Determination**

<b>Licence Register Number:</b>	<b>P1157-01</b>
<b>Company Register Number:</b>	<b>694891</b>
<b>Licensee:</b>	<b>Mullan Poultry Products Limited</b>
<b>Location of installation:</b>	<b>Drumturk Emyvale County Monaghan</b>

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This introduction is not part of this licence and does not purport to be a legal interpretation of this licence.

Mullan Poultry Products Limited **has applied** to operate a poultry (broiler) unit located at Drumturk, Emyvale, County Monaghan.

The **proposed** installation is on an existing, recently constructed poultry farm in a rural location. The **proposed** installation will accommodate 90,000 broilers within two poultry houses. The installation is currently operating below licence threshold at a capacity of 39,400 conventional broiler places within a single poultry house.

The process involves the rearing of stock specifically bred for lean poultry meat production, from day old chicks delivered from the hatchery, until they are removed from site and taken to the processing installation at approximately five to seven weeks. At the end of each rearing cycle the houses are destocked, and the birds are sold for processing. Following the removal of poultry litter (also termed organic fertiliser), the poultry houses are cleaned and left empty for a period of one to two weeks, to allow for complete drying after the cleaning process. The houses are then restocked.

The **proposed** activity is above the IE licensing threshold of 40,000 places specified under Annex 1 of the Industrial Emissions Directive and the First Schedule of the EPA Act 1992 as amended.

## *Decision and Reasons for the Decision*

**The Environmental Protection Agency is not satisfied, on the basis of the information available, that subject to compliance with the conditions of this licence, emissions from the activity will comply with and will not contravene any of the requirements of section 83(5) of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended.**

**The Environmental Protection Agency considers that the activity may adversely affect the integrity of European Sites. It has determined that it is not possible to ascertain that the activity, if managed, operated and controlled as proposed in the licence application will not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, Slieve Beagh SPA.**

### *Recommended Determination*

The Agency accordingly proposes to refuse to grant a licence to Mullan Poultry Products Limited to carry on the activity listed in *Part I, Schedule of Activities Licensed*.

In reaching this decision the Agency has considered: the application, Register Number: P1157-01 and the supporting documentation received from the applicant; the submissions received, the Inspector's Report dated **08 August 2024**, and has carried out an Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects of the activity on European Sites.

It is considered that the Inspector's Report contains a fair and reasonable examination, evaluation and analysis of the likely significant effects of the activity on the environment, and adequately and accurately identifies, describes and assesses those effects. The assessment as reported in this document is adopted as the assessment of the Agency.

A screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site. In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Sites at Slieve Beagh SPA, Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA (NI), Slieve Beagh SAC (NI), Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC (NI) and Killoosky Lough Cluster SAC.

The activity is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site and the Agency considered, for the reasons set out below, that it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the activity, 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 activity was required, and for this reason determined to require the applicant to submit a Natura Impact Statement.

- Air emissions were modelled by the Agency using a screen model (SCAIL Agriculture). The model results indicated that the potential for significant adverse impact of emissions to air and their consequential potential impact on sensitive receptors cannot be ruled out due to elevated ammonia levels and nitrogen deposition at European sites.

The Agency has completed the Appropriate Assessment of potential impacts on these sites and it is not possible to ascertain, based on best scientific knowledge in the field and in accordance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, that the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site, in particular Slieve Beagh SPA having regard to its conservation objectives and may affect the preservation of the site at favourable conservation status if carried out in accordance with the proposed application for the following reasons:

- Slieve Beagh SPA is approximately 9 km away from the applicant's installation site. Ammonia can disperse over long distances, especially in areas with multiple emission sources such as numerous pig and poultry farms within 10 km of Slieve Beagh SPA. The atmospheric transport of ammonia means that even sources 9 km away can contribute to local nitrogen deposition levels in this sensitive habitat.
- The area around Slieve Beagh has a high density of pig and poultry IE licensed farms and sub-IE threshold farms. The in-combination impact of ammonia emissions from these multiple sources will exacerbate the negative environmental effects on the SPA as the critical levels for both ammonia and nitrogen are already

exceeded at the SPA.

- Background nitrogen deposition is 11.06 kg N/ha/yr and background ammonia is 4.39  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , both above their respective critical load and level of 10 kg N/ha/yr and 3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . As such, Slieve Beagh SPA is already experiencing ammonia and nitrogen levels beyond what it can tolerate without adverse effects. Additional ammonia emissions from a new source, such as the emissions proposed in this application, would further exacerbate these conditions, having an adverse effect on the habitat that the Qualifying Interest, the Hen Harrier, is dependent on in Slieve Beagh SPA.
- Process emissions from the proposed bird numbers at the installation, in combination with other plans and projects, will contribute to ammonia levels and nitrogen deposition loads that exceed the critical level and critical limit respectively at Slieve Beagh SPA.

The Agency is not satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of adverse effects on the integrity of European Site Slieve Beagh SPA.

## *Part I Schedule of Activities Refused*

In pursuance of the powers conferred on it by the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended, the Agency proposes to refuse to grant this Industrial Emissions licence (P1157-01) to:

Mullan Poultry Products Ltd., Emyvale, County Monaghan, CRO Number: 694891,

under Section 81(1) of the said Act to carry on the following activity:

- 6.1 (a) The rearing of poultry in installations where the capacity exceeds 40,000 places.

at Drumturk, Emyvale, County Monaghan.

**Signed on behalf of the said Agency** \_\_\_\_\_

On the xx day of xxxxx, 2024                      xxxxxxxxxxxxxx **Authorised Person**

**PRESENT when the seal of the Agency**

**Was affixed hereto:**