



27th February 2024.

Ms. Niamh Thornton,
Senior Executive Officer,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

**NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 177AB (3) OF THE PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)**

Re: Galway Harbour Extension (Case Number 61.PA0033)

Dear Ms Hayes,

I write in response to your letter of 24 March 2021 enclosing a statement of case for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), a copy of the planning application and a Natura Impact Statement, pursuant to Section 177 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), (the 2000 Act) in respect of a strategic infrastructure application to extend Galway Harbour.

I hereby wish to notify you pursuant to Section 177AB(3) of the 2000 Act, that the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, has conveyed his opinion that the compensatory measures proposed are sufficient to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected (see Appendix 1).

As you are aware, I am obliged under Section 177AB(5) of the 2000 Act to inform the Commission of the matter, including the compensatory measures proposed. As such, I intend to send a copy of this notice and the appendices listed below, accompanied by a copy of the statement of case for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), the planning application and the Natura Impact Statement as provided to me on 24 March 2021, to the European Commission.



I would be grateful if you could furnish me with a copy of An Bord Pleanála's decision on the planning application, once made, at your earliest convenience so that I may also inform the Commission of the final decision including the compensatory measures adopted.

Yours sincerely,



Darragh O'Brien, TD,
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Appendix:

1. Opinion of Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform as provided to Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage 22 Feb 2024

Appendices for information:

2. Letter from An Bord Pleanála to Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government,

3. Galway Harbour Extension Compensatory Measures Plan, Accompanying Measures and Additional Environmental Benefits