



Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D.,  
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
Custom House,  
Dublin 1  
By email: [Niamh.Redmond@housing.gov.ie](mailto:Niamh.Redmond@housing.gov.ie)

21 February 2024

**Re: Opinion on Compensatory Measures for Galway Port Development by Galway Harbour Company**

Dear Darragh,

I refer to previous correspondence in the above matter including letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 and subsequent request to seek my opinion under Section 177 (AB) of the Planning and Development Act (as amended). All issues previously raised by NPWS have now been addressed by the applicant, Galway Harbour Company.

I hereby convey my opinion that the compensatory measures proposed by Galway Harbour Company in their July 2022 document "Compensatory Measures Plan, Accompanying Measures and Additional Environmental Benefits", as submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, are sufficient to ensure the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected.

Officials of the Department are available to discuss and clarify for the planning authority any issue arising in this Opinion.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Noonan T.D.

Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Electoral Reform

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