

## Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive

### *For the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028*

The Dublin Agglomeration Action Planning Authorities (APAs)<sup>1</sup> as the Competent Authorities required the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 (Report REF: 13354A-20-R014-04-F08) to be screened for Appropriate Assessment (AA) pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directives. This screening assessment is set out in the AA Screening Report (Report REF: 13354A-20-R025-01-F01) dated 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 prepared by Logika Consultants Ltd. on behalf of Noise Consultants Ltd for the APAs of the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028.

Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) determines the requirement for public authorities to conduct a screening for Appropriate Assessment on a plan or project which the authority wishes to adopt. The screening assessment was carried out using criteria for determining whether the Dublin Agglomeration NAP would adversely affect the integrity of a European site and could result in likely significant effects on any European site in view of the conservation objectives. Furthermore, the screening assessment was undertaken to determine if the NAP could result in likely significant effects on any European site in view of the conservation objectives in combination with other plans and projects. The Dublin Agglomeration NAP is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of any Natura 2000 sites, and the NAP is not identified as having any direct or indirect impacts on Natura 2000 sites for the following reasons:

- The NAP is designed to reduce noise pollution and protect quiet areas, which contributes positively to environmental quality and does not adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites because there is no pathway for potential Likely Significant Effects (LSE) as the NAP does not propose any measures which could increase or negatively affect existing noise levels.
- The reduction in noise in areas near to Natura 2000 sites will ultimately contribute to a beneficial effect of Natura 2000 sites and their Qualifying Interests / Special Conservation Interests features. This is however not considered to be significant.
- Any potential impacts from noise-related activities are mitigated through existing planning and licencing processes, which include Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA).
- The NAP adheres to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), ensuring that it aligns with EU legislation aimed at protecting designated sites.

Stage 1: Screening has concluded that the NAP is not predicted, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have LSE upon the 28 Natura 2000 sites identified within the Zone of Influence of the Dublin Agglomeration NAP.

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<sup>1</sup> The APA comprises Dublin City Council (DCC), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), Fingal County Council (FCC), South Dublin County Council (SDCC), Kildare County Council (KCC) and Wicklow County Council (WCC).

Therefore, in alignment with the Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, it is determined that the NAP will generate no potential for LSE. Consequently, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

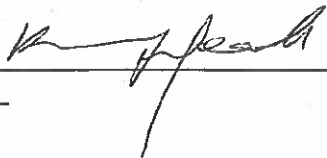
**Determination:** In making the determination, the information contained within the AA Screening Report (REF: 13354A-20-R025-01-F01) has been taken into account and carefully considered. The Dublin APAs hereby confirm agreement that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, in respect of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is **not** required for the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028.

**Signed on behalf of the Dublin City Council:**

Kevin Meade

Acting Executive Manager, Environment and Transportation Department

Dublin City Council

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
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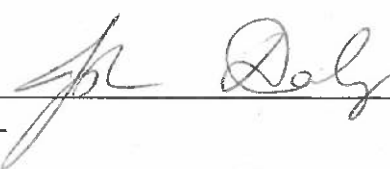
Dated: 12/8/2024 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Signed on behalf of the Fingal County Council:**

John Daly

Acting Director of Services, Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel

Fingal County Council

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 12/8/2024 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Signed on behalf of South Dublin County Council:**

Teresa Walsh

Director of Services, Environment, Water and Climate Change

South Dublin County Council

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Teresa Walsh*

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

*12/08/2024.*

**Signed on behalf of the Kildare County Council:**

Celina Barrett

*A* Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Kildare County Council

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Celina Barrett*

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

*9<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

**Signed on behalf of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council:**

Paul Kennedy

Director of Services, Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic)

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Signature: Margaret Hartnett for Paul Kennedy  
(A/Dos)

Dated: 14/08/24

**Signed on behalf of Wicklow County Council:**

Joe Lane

Director of Services, Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery and Emergency Services

Wicklow County Council

Signature: Joe Lane

Dated: 13/8/2024