Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@eircom.net>
Sent: 20 February 2020 17:38
To: PADadmin
Subject: Application of EXOLA for offshore exploration in Irish territorial waters

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Government of Ireland

Re EXOLA application for licence for exploration

Do not grant this licence. The benefits to the People of Ireland are nominal at best, illusory if honest. Fossil fuels have placed us in a pariah category of sovereign staes re carbon emissions. We should be urgently pursuing plans to offset the carbon emissions of our farming with rewilding of bogs and public ownership of seaweed beds. This application is disrespectful of our democratically declared climate and biodiversity emergencies and of the Irish People.

Fossil fuels are dirty, out dated and morally untenable re our obligations to other low lying countries.

Refuse this application and revoke all existing exploration licences under the public interest power in Article 43 of Bunreacht na h'Eireann. The authority has been vested in the State to protect our right to life and right to a healthy environment. Do your duty.

[redacted]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@hotmail.com>
Sent: 20 February 2020 23:24
To: PADadmin
Subject: Opposition to offshore drilling

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am writing in relation to the application by Exola to conduct a site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea.

I think at this point it goes without saying the detrimental effect fossil fuels are having on our planet. However I will say it anyway as this is clearly not being understood in its enormity by those trying to drill for fossil fuels and those who are willing to allow this. It is undisputed by the science and the experts in the fields that we are in the throws of an existential climate crisis and the continued use and exploration of fossil fuels are detrimental to this crisis.

Similarly, offshore drilling can have a profoundly negative impact on the local marine environment too. The seismic booming method used for oil and gas exploration kills zooplankton (the basis for the marine food chain), disrupts migratory patterns and causes internal bleeding in whales and dolphins. The offshore drilling process also produces waste drilling muds full of toxic substances like mercury and lead.

Putting the environmental issues aside, Providence Resources is very weak financially. After its last CEO resigned over the company's financial difficulties, Providence Resources has recently announced that they only have enough funds to last until April. Only companies of financial substance should be allowed to operate in Irish waters. In attempts to save money, Providence Resources laid off most of their technical staff. Although Providence was granted licences for fossil fuel exploration in the past, they do not have the same expertise now as when those earlier licences were granted. This lack of expertise increases the risk to health and safety and to marine life that this site survey poses.

Offshore drilling is economically costly, particularly when compared to lack of benefit it provides to the Irish economy. The seafood industry, which supports 11,000 jobs, is already suffering due to biodiversity loss, which offshore drilling will only exacerbate. Comparatively, oil and gas extraction in Ireland has only provided 270 long-term jobs. Providence Resources recent layoffs is proof of the industries unstable nature in relation to employment. Furthermore, there is little potential tax benefit to Ireland from the gas industry. Ireland has some of the lowest petroleum extraction tariffs in the world. The Corrib site is yet to pay any taxes to the Irish state despite earning revenues of €734 million in 2018.

It is vital that the Department not grant the site survey for the many reasons listed above.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

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Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 20 February 2020 23:56
To: PADadmin
Subject: Do not grant site survey at Barryroe

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

1. To whom it may concern,

2.
3. I am writing in relation to the application by Exola to conduct a site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea. I am completely against and opposed to this application being granted.
4. It is crucial that we discontinue the use of fossil fuels for climate change reasons. Fossil fuels need to stay in the earth.
5. As well as that offshore drilling can have a massive negative impact on the local marine environment too. The seismic booming method used for oil and gas exploration kills zooplankton (the basis for the marine food chain), disrupts migratory patterns and causes internal bleeding in whales and dolphins. The offshore drilling process also produces waste drilling muds full of toxic substances like mercury and lead. It is not acceptable that you would allow a Exola to engage in this activity and wreak suhh havoc with our local marine life.
6. I am also concerned that Providence Resources is very weak financially. After its last CEO resigned over the company's financial difficulties, Providence Resources has recently announced that they only have enough funds to last until April. Only companies of financial substance should be allowed to operate in Irish waters. It is my understanding that in attempts to save money, Providence Resources laid off most of their technical staff. Although Providence was granted licences for fossil fuel exploration in the past, they do not have the same expertise now as when those earlier licences were granted. This lack of expertise increases the risk to health and safety and to marine life that this site survey poses.
7. I will also mention that offshore drilling is economically costly, particularly when compared to lack of benefit it provides to the Irish economy. The seafood industry, which supports 11,000 jobs, is already suffering due to biodiversity loss, which offshore drilling will only exacerbate. Comparatively, oil and gas extraction in Ireland has only provided 270 long-term jobs. Providence Resources recent layoffs is proof of the industries unstable nature in relation to employment.Furthermore, there is little potential tax benefit to Ireland from the gas industry. Ireland has some of the lowest petroleum extraction tariffs in the world. The Corrib site is yet to pay any taxes to the Irish state despite earning revenues of €734 million in 2018.
8. For all the above reasons and as a concerned Irish citizen I am strongly asking the Department not to grant this site survey. Please contact me with updates about this.

[redacted]

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 21 February 2020 08:53
To: PADadmin
Subject: Public consultation north Celtic sea site survey

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in relation to the application by Exola to conduct a site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea. I am completely against and opposed to this application being granted.

It is crucial that we discontinue the use of fossil fuels for climate change reasons. Fossil fuels need to stay in the earth.

As well as that offshore drilling can have a massive negative impact on the local marine environment too. The seismic booming method used for oil and gas exploration kills zooplankton (the basis for the marine food chain), disrupts migratory patterns and causes internal bleeding in whales and dolphins. The offshore drilling process also produces waste drilling muds full of toxic substances like mercury and lead. It is not acceptable that you would allow a Exola to engage in this activity and wreak suhh havoc with our local marine life.

I am also concerned that Providence Resources is very weak financially. After its last CEO resigned over the company's financial difficulties, Providence Resources has recently announced that they only have enough funds to last until April. Only companies of financial substance should be allowed to operate in Irish waters. It is my understanding that in attempts to save money, Providence Resources laid off most of their technical staff. Although Providence was granted licences for fossil fuel exploration in the past, they do not have the same expertise now as when those earlier licences were granted. This lack of expertise increases the risk to health and safety and to marine life that this site survey poses.

I will also mention that offshore drilling is economically costly, particularly when compared to lack of benefit it provides to the Irish economy. The seafood industry, which supports 11,000 jobs, is already suffering due to biodiversity loss, which offshore drilling will only exacerbate. Comparatively, oil and gas extraction in Ireland has only provided 270 long-term jobs. Providence Resources recent layoffs is proof of the industries unstable nature in relation to employment.Furthermore, there is little potential tax benefit to Ireland from the gas industry. Ireland has some of the lowest petroleum extraction tariffs in the world. The Corrib site is yet to pay any taxes to the Irish state despite earning revenues of €734 million in 2018.

For all the above reasons and as a concerned Irish citizen I am strongly asking the Department not to grant this site survey. Please contact me with updates about this.

[redacted]

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 21 February 2020 09:19
To: PADadmin
Subject: Submission re application by Exola

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sir / madam,

I wish to make a submission regarding the application by Exola to conduct a site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea.

I strongly object to this site survey taking place due to my concerns about its impact on climate change. Internationally we need to be cutting down and eliminating the use of fossil fuels if we wish to keep the temperature from rising to a point where it would have a devastating impact on the planet. For this reason, I am convinced that a site survey should not be allowed to go ahead.

I am also concerned about the environmental impact of offshore drilling on the marine environment.

I also would suggest that a company with a precarious financial situation like Providence Resources should not be granted permission to undertake this site survey. It is vital that if this work has to be done then it is done by companies with the resources to successfully undertake it and with the fully complement of technical staff.

On the basis of these arguments I would request that the department does not grant permission for the site survey.

Thank you for your consideration,
Regards,
[redacted]

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 21 February 2020 09:53
To: PADadmin
Subject: Submission in relation to Exola

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in relation to an application by Exola for a site survey in the Celtic north sea. I wish to raise some specific concerns about the appropriateness of granting this to this particular company but may I start by saying the proven link between fossil fuels and climate breakdown mean that each application like this must be weighed also against the likelihood that it will have a significant negative impact on human health and quality of life in the near future.

The first and most directly pertinent problem is that the parent company, Providence resources, is on such unsteady financial footing that they have announced they only have funds to last until april, in fact the CEO cited the financial difficulties of the company when stepping down. The knock on effect that this has had, operationally, is that with numerous technical staff having been laid off because of this, there is no longer the depth and breath of experience and expertise they had when the last licences were granted. This leads to another worrying risk as this lack of expertise increases risk to marine life as a result of this survey.

Even in a best case scenario the seismic booming method to be used destroys zooplankton, thereby disrupting the marine food chain which has a much more negative effect on the seafood industry (10,000+ permanent jobs) than it is worth for the boost to the oil extraction industry (~250 permanent jobs). For taxation it is much more valuable to this country to protect native fisheries than to support Corrib which paid no tax on revenues in excess of 730 million euro in 2018.

For jobs, for Ireland, for the environment, for sound economics, for common sense, I urge you not to grant this request by Exola.

Mise le meas
[redacted]

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@umail.ucc.ie>
Sent: 21 February 2020 11:11
To: PADadmin
Subject: Submission to Public Consultation on application by Exola for site survey in Barryroe

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,
I am writing in relation to the application made by Exola to conduct a site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea.
I would like to take this opportunity to object to the granting of this application, which is intended to allow for the "placement and operation of a semi-submersible drilling rig".

Any projects intending to continue and expand fossil fuel investment in Ireland are simply not acceptable. As a country ranking among the worst in Europe on climate action (2020 Climate Change Performance Index), we must be working to cut down and eliminate fossil fuels, and be incentivising progression towards more sustainable alternatives.

Additionally, offshore drilling has been shown to have disastrous impacts on the marine environment in the immediate region. The seismic surveys used for oil and gas exploration kills zooplankton (the basis for the marine food chain).One blast from oil and gas exploration kills 64% of zooplankton in a region of up to 0.7 miles around the source (source). These methods have also been found to damage the hearing and health of fish, eventually "disrupting and displacing important migratory patterns, pushing marine life away from suitable habitats" (source) and causing internal bleeding in whales and dolphins. (source)

The offshore drilling process also produces waste drilling muds full of toxic substances like mercury and lead, which "may bioaccumulate and biomagnify in marine organisms, including in our seafood supply " (source).

Furthermore, it is worth noting that Providence Resources, of which Exola is a subsidiary, is very weak financially. Following the departure of their CEO due to the company's financial difficulties, Providence Resources has recently announced that they only have enough funds to last until April. On top of the multitude of environmental issues and climate impacts of fossil fuel infrastructure, I do not feel that granting a license to such an unstable company to operate in Irish waters is a wise choice to make on behalf of the country. (source)

On a related note, these financial difficulties have lead to Providence Resources laying off a large proportion of their technical staff. In a statement they said that they are 'not a revenue-generating business' (source) and although Providence was granted licences for fossil fuel exploration in the past, they do not have the same expertise now as when those earlier licences were granted, as the firm now has a "much-reduced technical role". This lack of expertise increases the risk to human health and safety and to marine life that this site survey poses.

Finally, offshore drilling is economically costly, particularly when one considers the complete lack of benefit it provides to the Irish economy. As detailed above, offshore drilling only exacerbates the biodiversity loss, which is wreaking havoc on the Irish seafood industry. This industry supports 11,000 jobs; oil and gas extraction in Ireland has only provided 270 long-term jobs. Providence Resources' recent layoffs (9 of 13 staff) only serve as proof of the industry's unstable nature in relation to employment.

Notable, there is little potential tax benefit to Ireland from the gas industry, as we have some of the lowest petroleum extraction tariffs in the world. Despite earning €734 million in 2018, the Corrib site is yet to pay any taxes to the Irish state.

To conclude, I am objecting to the granting of this application and, as a concerned Irish citizen, requesting that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment fulfill their duty to this country by refusing to grant permission for this site survey, lest it pave the way for the continued expansion of an entirely destructive and disadvantageous industry.

Regards,
[redacted]

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 21 February 2020 11:19
To: PADadmin
Subject: Exola drilling application

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in relation to the application by Exola to conduct a site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea. I am completely opposed to this application being granted.

It is critical that our use of fossil fuels is contained within a wider strategy to minimise the harmful effects such energy sources are having on the environment and climate. Until such a strategy is in place, further drilling and fuel exploration should be curtailed.

In this case it is relevant to note that there is significant evidence offshore drilling has a negative impact on the local marine environment. The seismic survey methods used in oil and gas exploration kills zooplankton (the basis for the marine food chain), cause disruption to migratory patterns and even in some cases cause internal bleeding in whales and dolphins. The offshore drilling processes produce waste drilling mud containing, among others, the toxic substances mercury and lead. It is not acceptable that we should allow Exola to engage in this activity and wreak such havoc with our local marine life.

I am also concerned that Providence Resources share price has plummeted from £14.925 at the start of last year to £3.00 as of last week. This collapse of share price will doubtless make the organisation desperate to show profitability in any new endeavor they undertake, I fear they will take shortcuts with health and safety as well as environmental regulations. Such heavy industry needs to be in calm hands who can be expected to follow guidelines and regulation to the letter, not an ailing Plc desperate to stay out of receivership.

I will also mention that offshore drilling is economically costly, particularly when compared to lack of benefit it provides to the Irish economy. The seafood industry, which supports 11,000 jobs, is already suffering due to biodiversity loss, which offshore drilling will only exacerbate. Comparatively, oil and gas extraction in Ireland has only provided 270 long-term jobs. Providence Resources recent layoffs is proof of the industries unstable nature in relation to employment.Furthermore, there is little potential tax benefit to Ireland from the gas industry. Ireland has some of the lowest petroleum extraction tariffs in the world. The Corrib site is yet to pay any taxes to the Irish state despite earning revenues of €734 million in 2018.

For all the above reasons and as a concerned Irish citizen I am strongly asking the Department not to grant this site survey. Please contact me with updates about this.

[redacted]

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@yahoo.com>
Sent: 21 February 2020 11:53
To: PADadmin
Subject: Site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in relation to the application by Exola to conduct a site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea. I am completely against and opposed to this application being granted.

It is crucial that we discontinue the use of fossil fuels for climate change reasons.

Drilling can have a massive negative impact on the local marine environment. The seismic booming method used for oil and gas exploration kills zooplankton (the basis for the marine food chain), disrupts migratory patterns and causes internal bleeding in whales and dolphins. Offshore drilling process produces waste drilling muds full of toxic substances such as mercury and lead. It is not acceptable that we would allow Exola to engage in this activity and wreak such havoc with our local marine life.

I am also concerned that Providence Resources is very weak financially. After its last CEO resigned over the company's financial difficulties, Providence Resources has recently announced that they only have enough funds to last until April. Only companies of financial substance should be allowed to operate in Irish waters. It is my understanding that in attempts to save money, Providence Resources laid off most of their technical staff. Although Providence was granted licences for fossil fuel exploration in the past, they do not have the same expertise now as when those earlier licences were granted. This lack of expertise increases the risk to health and safety and to marine life that this site survey poses.

I would also like to state that offshore drilling is economically costly, when compared to lack of benefit it provides to the Irish economy. The seafood industry, which supports 11,000 jobs, is already suffering due to biodiversity loss, which offshore drilling will only exacerbate. Comparatively, oil and gas extraction in Ireland has only provided 270 long-term jobs. Providence Resources recent lay-offs is proof of the industries unstable nature in relation to employment. Furthermore, there is little potential tax benefit to Ireland from the gas industry. Ireland has some of the lowest petroleum extraction tariffs in the world. The Corrib site is yet to pay any taxes to the Irish state despite earning revenues of €734 million in 2018.

For all the above reasons and as a concerned Irish citizen I am strongly asking the Department not to grant this site survey. Please contact me with updates about this.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@yahoo.ie>
Sent: 21 February 2020 13:14
To: PADadmin
Subject: Public consultation on application for consent for a site survey at Barryroe

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to urge you to reject Exola DAC's application to conduct a site survey at Barryroe.

The potential negative effects on our fishing and tourism sectors (not to mention the reputational damage to Ireland on the international stage) are enormous compared to the tiny benefits of this project in terms of jobs and tax revenues.

Exola's parent company, Providence Resources, is in a precarious financial position having been unable to find investors for the project. International investors can see the writing is on the wall for projects like Barryroe and it is clear that Providence no longer have the financial resources or technical expertise required to complete the project.

It is embarrassing that the state is even considering this application following the Taoiseach's grand announcement at last year's United Nations Climate Summit that Ireland would end fossil fuel exploration.

Kind Regards,
[redacted]

Emma Lanigan

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 21 February 2020 16:59
To: PADadmin

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I hope you are well.
My name is [redacted] and I am a 20 year - old art student from Dublin.
I am writing to you in relation to the application by Exola to carry out a site survey in Barryroe in the North Celtic Sea.

I do not want this to happen, because I am extremely worried about the climate crisis because it will threaten the human race's survival by causing sea levels to rise, and causing infectious diseases to spread, as well as other problems.
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated we cannot use all of the fossil fuel reserves that have been found, without irreversibly damaging the climate, so that means we should not explore to find more fossil fuel reserves.

Another reason why I don't want the site survey to happen is because of the damage it would do to marine life.
The seismic booming method that would be used in it would cause internal bleeding in whales and dolphins, and kill zooplankton, which is a major source of food in the sea. Without plankton, animals that eat it will starve to death, and so will animals that eat these animals. This lower population of sea creatures will negatively impact the seafood industry since there will be less sea creatures to catch.
The Irish seafood industry employs 11, 000 people, but the oil and gas industry in Ireland has only employed 270 people in the long term.
I think the seafood industry should be prioritised over the oil and gas industry to save more jobs.

Kind Regards,
[redacted]