INM titles scoop four accolades in prestigious Justice Media Awards

Gabija Gataveckaite

INDEPENDENT News and Media (INM) titles have scooped four prestigious Justice Media Awards.

The *Irish Independent* won a merit certificate for its coverage of 'Constitutional implications of Votegate: absent TD voted six times in Dáil' by Ireland Editor Fionnán Sheahan and political correspondent Cormac McQuinn in the Print/Online Journalism (daily) category. Legal Affairs Editor Shane Phelan was also awarded a merit certificate in the Court Reporting (Print) category for his work on 'Tusla's race against time to prevent a homicidal teen's release into the community'.

Business Editor at the 'Sunday Independent' Samantha McCaughren was awarded a merit certificate for her series of reports on 'First social media controls revealed/Ireland in the spotlight after falling into role of online regulator' in the print/online journalism (Sunday) category.

'Sunday World' Investigations reporter Patrick O'Connell received a merit certificate for his work on 'Woman who was sent child porn and deleted it is now listed as sex offender'. The overall winner was 'Irish Times' crime correspondent Conor Gallagher and he also won the overall award in the Court Reporting – Print/Online category.

Winners: From left, the *Irish Independent's* Shane Phelan, Cormac McQuinn and Fionnán Sheahan with their 2020 Justice Media Awards. PHOTOS: STEVE HUMPHREYS

Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment

EXOLA DAC: PROPOSED BARRYROE K SITE SURVEY

On 15 January, 2020, Exola DAC, (a wholly owned subsidiary of Providence Resources plc) ('Exola') submitted an application to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment seeking Ministerial approval to undertake a seabed and shallow geophysical survey and an environmental baseline and habitat assessment survey at the Barryroe K Site, together with a single environmental control point approximately 7km to the eastsoutheast of the survey area, all within the Barryroe licence area (SEL 1/11). The survey area is situated in the North Celtic Sea Basin approximately 49 kilometres (km) south east of the closest coastline at Ballymacshoneen, Butlerstown North, County Cork on the south coast of Ireland ('Barryroe K site survey').

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SCREENING DETERMINATION

On 22nd June, 2020, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening determination was made pursuant to Regulation 3(1B) of the European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Petroleum Exploration) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 134 of 2013) (as amended) and in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU **(EIA Directive)** that the proposed Barryroe K Site Survey is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment and, consequently, an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the EIA Screening Determination, which must be included as conditions in any consent that may be granted in respect of the application. Further, that any consent granted in respect of this application must require that the applicant obtain prior approval from DCCAE for any alternative survey vessel proposed, in which case confirmation will be required that the survey equipment and methodology on any replacement vessel are equivalent to that described in the updated EIA Screening Report submitted by the applicant in March 2020.

NOTICE OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION AND ANNEX IV SPECIES ASSESSMENT

On 23rd June, 2020, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination was made under Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended, which concluded that the proposed Barryroe K Site Survey will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site (whether individually or in combination with other plans or projects), in view of the sites' conservation objectives, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures adopted in the Determination, which must be included as conditions in any consent that may be granted in respect of the Exola application.

It was further concluded that there would be no adverse effects on the conservation status of Annex IV species that may be present in the area, should approval be granted in respect of the application, subject to the implementation of all the mitigation measures adopted, which must be included as conditions in any consent that may be granted in respect of the Exola application.

Queries

The above referenced EIA Screening Determination and AA Determination/Annex IV Species Assessment, and associated documentation have been published on the Department's website (www.dccae.gov.ie).

For any queries in relation to this matter please contact the Environment Advisory Unit of the Department at 01 678 2000 or at the address below.

Judicial Review

Please note the validity of any EIA Screening Determination or AA Determination may be questioned by Judicial Review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended). Any application for leave to apply for judicial review must be made promptly and in any event within three months from the date of the Determination. Practical information on Judicial Review can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board (Ground Floor, Georges Quay House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2 or online: www.citizensinformation.ie) or from the Courts Website (www.courts.ie).

Environment Advisory Unit,
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment,
29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin, D02 X285.

Legal advice drives FAI move to refer key report to authorities

Mazars findings handed over to Garda and ODCE

Daniel McDonnell
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE board of the FAI has opted to refer a report from global auditing and consulting group Mazars to An Garda Síochána and the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE).

Mazars was commissioned by the FAI to look into matters of concern and has completed the long-awaited report.

In a brief statement, the FAI said it was the "appropriate" course of action to hand the details over to the relevant arms of the State. Legal advice guided their decision.

This is the latest development in the protracted fall-out from the end of the John Delaney era.

What are the origins of the Mazars report?

A week after Mr Delaney became executive vice-president, a sub-committee of the FAI board commissioned Mazars "to conduct an independent and in-depth external review" into matters of concern.

How is this different to the other reports?

Sport Ireland brought in Northern Irish firm KOSI for a wide ranging audit of the FAI finances.

ODCE, the corporate watchdog, started a probe arising from a protected disclosure outlining governance concerns. And when auditors Deloitte filed a notice claiming proper accounting records were not being kept by the FAI, that prompted another back and forth that is going through legal channels.

Agreement: Former FAI chief John Delaney

What sets Mazars apart is that it was asked to look into a small number of specific transactions. "It was far more targeted," as one FAI source put it, with the remit extending beyond the initial request.

Payments allegedly made to Susan Keegan, an ex-girlfriend of Delaney, were among those investigated by Mazars.

The FAI accounts had indicated Keegan had received around €95,000, which was partially attributed to a role as a match agent arranging friendly games. Ms Keegan has denied receiving the majority of the money.

What were the options open to the FAI?

There was considerable public interest in the Mazars report as it was mentioned consistently throughout the last year as a body of work that may potentially shed light on the events of a controversial period. It is also worth noting that the current board were not in situ when Mazars was commissioned.

While details of the draft report emerged earlier this year, the *Irish Independent* understands that only a handful of the present board have read the final completed work – though the rest have been encouraged to do so.

Legal advice was sought, and the viewpoint was that the right thing to do was to hand the report over to the Garda and the ODCE. The alternative would have been to release a redacted version, but the fear was this could prejudice other investigations.

What happens now?

The relevant authorities who have been furnished with the report will decide how to take it forward and determine how it sits in with any enquiries they have ongoing. Mazars conducted a number of interviews, so the information that came out of its investigation could now be followed up on.

Earlier this week, the ODCE reached agreement with Mr Delaney over how documents from the FAI can be inspected.