

Screening for Appropriate Assessment
Determination in accordance with the provisions of the European
Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for
Housing for All - A New Housing Plan for Ireland

In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 42A of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)¹, this determination has been made by the Ecological Assessment Unit (EAU) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage following a screening for appropriate assessment carried out by the EAU of the plan *Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland* (Final Draft, dated 1st September 2021) in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 42A(1) of the Regulations at the request of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Minister furnished the EAU with the following documents on 1st September 2021 in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 42A(3) of the Regulations:

1. *Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland* (Final Draft, dated 1st September 2021)², attached as Appendix A to this determination)
2. Report containing information to inform screening for appropriate assessment prepared by the Minister, dated 1st September 2021 (attached as Appendix B to this determination).

This determination has been made following a review of the information contained in these documents, which is considered adequate to enable the EAU to undertake screening for appropriate assessment and to make this screening determination.

Following an evaluation and analysis of the information contained in the Draft Plan, and the information contained in the Minister’s report (both referred to above), the EAU has carried out a screening for appropriate assessment, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European sites, and has formed the view that the Draft Plan will not have a significant effect on a European site or sites for the following reasons:

- the high-level, procedural, process and pathway-oriented nature of the Draft Plan and its actions cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on a European site or sites, because of the nature of the actions and/or the lack of geographic specificity of the actions contained in the Draft Plan,
- the Draft Plan is focussed on the implementation of relevant commitments contained in the National Planning Framework (“NPF”) which was subject to an appropriate assessment prior to its adoption by the Government, and therefore included a full consideration of potential impacts to European sites arising therefrom, and where necessary put in place mitigation measures to ensure that the implementation of the NPF will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site or sites,

¹ Hereafter referred to as “the Regulations”.

² Hereafter referred to as “the Draft Plan”.

- the Draft Plan, when considered in combination with other plans and projects, (including the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and the City and County Development Plans all of which have been subject to screening for appropriate assessment and appropriate assessment (where required) and therefore have fully addressed any potential impacts to European sites arising from these plans), cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on a European site or sites, because of the nature of the actions and/or the lack of geographic specificity of the actions contained in the Draft Plan;

and the EAU therefore determines in accordance with Regulation 42A(8) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended), that an Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Plan is not required because it can be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information following screening for appropriate assessment, that the Draft Plan individually or in combination with other plans or projects will have a significant effect on a European site or sites.



Gerry Clabby
Ecological Assessment Unit
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
2nd September 2021

Attached:

Appendix A: *Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland* (Final Draft, dated 1st September 2021)

Appendix B: Report containing information to inform screening for appropriate assessment prepared by the Minister, dated 1st September 2021.