[redacted],
Foreshore Unit,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Newtown Road,
Co. Wexford
9th of May 2022

Marine Adviser Environment Screening Stage Report

Re: FS007383 Foreshore Application for Site Investigation works off the coast of Co. Louth

Applicant: Oriel Windfarm Limited

I have reviewed the Foreshore Application **FS007383** and all the environmental documents associated with it. My comments on and recommendations for this application are as follows:

As the Department's Marine Environment Advisor I conducted independent assessments of the information provided by the Applicant, having regard to the Habitats, Birds and EIA Directives.

Risk Assessment of Annex IV Species

The applicant provided a Risk Assessment for Annex IV species in which it was concluded that the risk of disturbance to an Annex IV species was extremely low while the risk of injury was considered negligible. Having considered the application by Oriel Ltd. and the applicant's Risk Assessment of Annex IV species report I agree with and accept this report and its conclusions.

It should be noted that this risk assessment is not part of the Article 6.3 assessment and therefore identification and inclusion of mitigation measures within the risk assessment is appropriated at this stage.

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations:

Having considered the application by Oriel Ltd as the Department's Marine Environment Advisor I concluded that the proposed project does not fall within the classes defined under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive. However the Consent Authority (DHLGH) must complete a **Screening for EIA Determination** as part of their obligations under the EIA Directive [see Appendices].

As drilling of bores holes in this survey is for the investigation of the stability of the seabed sediments it is except under Annex II Section 2a of the EIA Directive and so does not require an EIA.

Article 6(3) of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): Following a review of the proposed project, as the Department's Marine Environment Advisor I completed **Screening for Appropriate Assessment** in which I concluded that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on European sites.

My signed Recommending Officer's **Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination** which requires the signature of the Minister as part of the decision-makers obligations under the Habitats Directive is contained in the Appendices.

If the Minister adopts and approves these reports and a determination is made that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required a public consultation will be held on the Appropriate Assessment. My Final Environmental Report with Determinations which may include any case specific conditions will follow having regard to the information obtained during public participation.

Signature of Marine Advisor: [redacted] **9th of May 2022**