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

25th of May 2022

Marine Adviser Environment Screening Stage Report

Re: FS007027 Irish Water – The laying of a marine outfall on the Foreshore to convey treated effluent from the proposed Whitegate & Aghada Wastewater Treatment Plant to be discharged in White Bay, Co. Cork.

Applicant: Irish Water

I have reviewed the Foreshore Application FS007027 and the environmental documents associated with it. My comments on and recommendations for this application are as follows:

Independent Environmental Consultant (IEC): The Department engaged **ROD** as an IEC to provide assistance with regard to the statutory and non-statutory environmental assessments of this Foreshore Application. The IEC has conducted independent assessments of the information provided by the Applicant, having regard to the Habitats Directive, EIA Directive, and the public and prescribed bodies' consultations.

Article 6(3) of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): Following a review of the proposed project, the IEC completed a **Screening for Appropriate Assessment** which 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.

Having considered the application by Irish Water and the IEC's Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report I agree with and accept the Screening for Appropriate Assessment and its conclusions.

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. On completion of this second consultation and the work of the IEC, I will furnish my final assessment report which will have regard to the information obtained during public participation and will include, if necessary, any case specific conditions.

Signature of Marine Advisor: [redacted] **25th of May 2022**

Appendix

Appendix I Screening determination for Appropriate Assessment

Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment

***Project reference*:** FS007027 Irish Water – The laying of a marine outfall on the Foreshore to convey treated effluent from the proposed Whitegate & Aghada Wastewater Treatment Plant to be discharged in White Bay, Co. Cork.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has undertaken Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed project to lay a marine outfall on the Foreshore, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is to have a significant effect on any European site. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites cannot be excluded on the basis of objective evidence. This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Advisor Environment:

[redacted] **25th of May 2022**

Signature and Date of Minister of State for Local Government and Planning: