[redacted]
Foreshore Unit,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Newtown Road,
Co. Wexford
2nd November 2022

Marine Adviser Environment Screening Stage Report

Re: FS007136 Foreshore Licence Application to conduct site investigation surveys off the coasts of counties Cork and Waterford.

Applicant: ESB Wind Development Ltd.

I have reviewed the Foreshore Application FS007136 and all the environmental documents associated with it. My comments on and recommendations for this application are as follows:

The Department's Marine Environment Advisor will 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 Report. This report it stated that the protocols in the Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound (DAHG 2014) will be followed at all times. It therefore concluded that it is very unlikely that any Annex IV species will be injured or disturbed as a result of the proposed works. Having considered the application by ESB Wind Development Ltd. and the applicant's Risk Assessment of Annex IV species I agree with and accept this conclusion.

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 ESB Wind Development 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 **an Examination for EIA** as part of their obligations under the EIA Directive [see Appendices].

Article 6(3) of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): As the Department's Marine Environment Advisor having regard to Supporting Information: Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report submitted by ESB Wind Development Ltd. with their application I carried out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report. This report 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-maker's obligations under the Habitats Directive is contained in the Appendices.

On completion of the Public and Prescribed Bodies Consultation I will furnish my Marine Adviser's environmental which will include an Appropriate Assessment and Conclusion Statement. This Final Environmental Report may include case specific conditions following information obtained during consultation phase.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Advisor Environment:

[redacted] **3rd November 2022**