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Your Reference: COR Transboundary 2023
Our Reference:

Date: 15 December 2022

**A5 Western Transport Corridor: Proposed Dual Carriageway:
Further Environmental Consultation (January 2023) and Notification under
Article 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU (as
amended by Directive 2014/52/EU).**

Dear Sir / Madam

Following on from the consultations on the Environmental Statement Addendum (ESA 2022), which closed on 6 May 2022 and the current consultation on further supplementary information that is scheduled to end 23 December 2022, a mid-inquiry meeting was held with the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) on the 15 November 2022.

At that meeting, the PAC commissioner decided to postpone the public inquiry which it had been scheduled to commence on 23 January 2023. In doing so, it also requested that the

Department provide and carry out another consultation exercise on further drawings relating to the scheme in the form of long and cross sections across its full 85-kilometre length.

The Department intends to comply with this request from the PAC and will therefore be placing a formal Notice in the local press week commencing 16th January 2023, advising of the public availability of these additional drawings and an updated Non-Technical Summary (NTS) Rev D, with an ensuing consultation period concluding on 3 March 2023.

You will be aware that Donegal and Monaghan County Councils have previously carried out Transboundary Environmental public consultation exercises in 2016, 2019, the periods March to May 2022 and the current consultation to end 23 December 2022 in respect of the A5WTC.

In accordance with Article 7 of the **Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU)** you have most recently notified this Department in writing (25 October 2022) that you wished to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment process and wanted to be involved and consulted on transboundary considerations under the ESPOO Convention and the EIA Directive. As such, we are formally notifying you of this further environmental consultation commencing week 16th January 2023 to end 3 March 2023.

I do apologise for the short notice on this latest consultation, given the upcoming holiday period, but trust you will understand the urgency considering the unexpected delay in re-convening the Public Inquiry hearing and the Department's objective of progressing the scheme as swiftly as possible.

In accordance with Article 7 of the above Directive, I would therefore ask that you formally notify the Department of Infrastructure in writing as to whether your department wishes to be included in the continuing Environmental Impact Assessment process for this scheme. I would be most grateful for an early response.

If your department wishes to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the scheme, coordinated joint press notices for both the Transboundary consultation in the ROI and the further environmental consultation in Northern Ireland for week commencing 16th January 2023, for six weeks duration should be considered.

Note that the supplementary reports, together with the ESA 2022 and other related ES correspondence, will be deposited by the Department at four locations in Northern Ireland

and at the offices of Monaghan County Council, Planning Office, 1 Dublin Road, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan H18 X982 and Donegal County Council, Planning Office, County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal, F93 Y622.

Your on-going co-operation and assistance on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely.

Seamus Keenan

Seamus Keenan
A5WTC Project Sponsor
DfI Roads, Western Division

Strategic Road Improvement Team