



17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## **Screening for Appropriate Assessment**

### **Determination under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)**

#### **CONCERNING CIRCULAR TO CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS, AN BORD PLEANÁLA, OFFICE OF THE PLANNING REGULATOR AND THE HOUSING AGENCY RE. STRUCTURAL HOUSING DEMAND IN IRELAND AND HOUSING SUPPLY TARGETS (DECEMBER 2020).**

In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 42(8) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477, as amended), this determination has been made by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage relating to the potential for the proposed Circular to City and County Councils, An Bord Pleanála, Office of the Planning Regulator and the Housing Agency Re. *Structural Housing Demand in Ireland and Housing Supply Targets* to have likely significant effects on European sites<sup>1</sup>, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

This determination has been made following a consideration of the information contained in the AA Screening Report (attached as Appendix A to this determination) and the text of the proposed Circular (attached as Appendix B to this determination).

Following an analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, including in particular, the nature of the proposed Circular and its potential relationship with European sites that could result from the implementation of the proposed Circular, as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, the Minister has agreed with the recommendation of the AA Screening report that there is no possibility that the proposed Circular would be likely to have any significant effects on any European sites.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined by S.I. 477 of 2011.



The principle reasons for this conclusion included the lack of geographic specificity in the nature of the Circular and the fact that the scale of the proposed delivery of housing targets has already been assessed in the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and therefore the Guidelines would be implemented in the context of these previous assessments.

Therefore, Stage 2 AA is not required for the proposed Circular.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage having carefully considered the information in the AA Screening Report and having regard to the advice of my officials, agrees with and adopt the reasoning and conclusion of the AA Screening Report. The Minister hereby determines pursuant to Regulation 42 of S.I. 477 of 2011 and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that on the basis of objective information, the proposed Circular, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would not have likely significant effect on a European site and therefore an appropriate assessment is not required.



**Darragh O'Brien, TD**

**Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage**

*Attached: Appendix A: AA Screening Report (dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020)*

*Appendix B: Proposed Circular (dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020)*