

Notice under Regulation 9(5) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended)

CONCERNING THE

PROPOSED UPDATE OF THE SUSTAINABLE URBAN HOUSING: DESIGN STANDARDS FOR NEW APARTMENTS -GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING AUTHORITIES (March, 2018).

23rd November, 2020

This correspondence forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process with the statutory Environmental Authorities. The SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, is transposed into Irish law by S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (“the Minister”) intends to update the *Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments -Guidelines for Planning Authorities (March, 2018)* accompanying this Notice, pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The Minister must decide whether the proposed update of the Guidelines, would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that, in so doing, he will take account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2011), as amended.

Accordingly, please find enclosed a copy of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report (dated 23rd November, 2020) for the proposed update of the Guidelines, having assessed and taken into consideration the relevant criteria of Schedule 1.

The SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, is transposed into Irish law by S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended. S.I. 435 of 2004 contains a mandatory requirement to consult the relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA screening process. In this regard Article 9(5) of S.I. 435 of 2004 states that the following bodies must be given notice:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (formerly Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (functions transferred from Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government/ Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht by S.I. 192 of 2011);
- Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications (formerly Minister of Communications, Climate Change and the Environment) ; and
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

You are therefore given notice of the proposed update of the Guidelines and the opportunity to provide written submissions or observations on in relation to whether the proposed update of the Guidelines, would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Submissions/observations may be made to the Minister can be made any time on or before 21st December 2020, via email to the following email address: euplanningregulation@housing.gov.ie and sent to the following address: SEA Submissions, EU and International Planning Regulation Unit, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Custom House, Dublin.

These submissions/observations will be taken into consideration before finalisation of the SEA screening process. Early responses would be appreciated to allow more time to clarify and resolve

issues that may arise. Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged but it will not be possible to issue individual responses.

EU and International Planning Regulation Unit
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.