

**Screening Determination for Strategic Environmental Assessment under SEA Directive  
2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law under Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 435/2004  
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes)  
Regulations 2004 (as amended)**

***For the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 - 2028***

The Dublin Agglomeration Action Planning Authorities (APAs)<sup>1</sup> as the Competent Authorities have undertaken screening of the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028 (Report REF: Reference:13354A-20-R014-04-F08) for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under Directive 2001/42/EC. The assessment for screening was carried out using the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects as set out in Schedule 1 of S.I. 435/2004 (as amended) (the 'SEA Regulations') informed by the SEA Screening Report (Report REF: 13354A-20-R024-01-F02) dated 08 August 2024 prepared by Logika Consultants Ltd. on behalf of Noise Consultants Ltd for the Dublin APAs of the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028.

Following assessment of the criteria and having regard to the nature of the plan and the potential for likely significant environmental effects from implementation of the plan, the APAs have determined that the plan will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment. This determination has been made following consideration of the information contained in the SEA Screening Report and the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to S.I. 435/2004 (as amended). Furthermore, this determination is informed by consultation with the following statutory Environmental Authorities for SEA which was carried out from the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 to the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2024: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the Minister for Housing, the Local Government and Heritage, Development Application Unit; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. As part of the consultation the EPA provided feedback which was taken into consideration in this determination. No further correspondence or feedback was received from the statutory Environmental Authorities for SEA.

The principal reasons the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan (NAP) 2024-2028 does not require SEA are as follows:

- Although the Dublin Agglomeration NAP does set out a locational framework for noise, it is limited in terms of scale (i.e. it is strategic) and does not necessarily drive specific changes or actions, such as operating conditions or allocate resources that are at a site-specific level. The Dublin Agglomeration NAP does not directly specify detailed projects or activities that would necessitate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Therefore, the degree to which the NAP drives other activities, is not significant in the context of the SEA Regulations.
- The Dublin Agglomeration NAP has minimal influence on other plans and programs within the Agglomeration and primarily promotes environmental best practices and signposts

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<sup>1</sup> The APAs comprises Dublin City Council (DCC), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), Fingal County Council (FCC), South Dublin County Council (SDCC), Kildare County Council (KCC) and Wicklow County Council (WCC).

existing mechanisms or environmental instruments that can be used to implement its aims, which in themselves may have been subject to environmental assessment.

- The Dublin Agglomeration NAP seeks to manage the risk of additional members of the community being exposed to undesirable noise levels where they would have an adverse effect to health. In SEA terms it is not deemed that, when considered against other environmental conditions and problems, the Dublin Agglomeration NAP would give rise to significant environmental effects on account of the high level and strategic nature of the mitigation set out in the NAP. This is also on account of the reliance upon existing or emerging plans and policies that are already or will be considered in respect of SEA.
- The Dublin Agglomeration NAP covers an area that includes several nationally and EU-level protected sites regarding flora, fauna, species, and habitats, such as the North Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. Measures included in the NAP are designed to manage environmental noise strategically. However, they are not likely to have specific geographic relevance because there are no candidate quiet areas, Most Important Areas (MIA), or Priority Important Areas (PIA) that overlap with the geographic extent of these protected sites. Therefore, the NAP and its subsequent interventions will not lead to significant positive or negative noise effects on protected sites. It should also be noted that the factors to which ecologically designated sites such as SACs and SPAs are protected do not necessarily correlate with changing noise levels. In summary, the Dublin Agglomeration NAP is not considered to have a significant effect upon recognised protected sites within the agglomeration itself.
- The Dublin Agglomeration NAP is not considered to have significant environmental transboundary effects, nor human health or environmental risks, and is unlikely to have cumulative effects, in the context of the SEA Regulations as it complies with other plans which have been assessed.

**Determination:** In making the determination, the information contained within the SEA Screening report (Report REF: 13354A-20-R024-01-F02) has been taken into account and carefully considered. The Dublin APAs hereby confirm agreement that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is **not** required for the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028, in accordance with the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) and Statutory Instrument No. 435 of 2004, European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

**Signed on behalf of the Dublin City Council:**

Kevin Meade

Acting Executive Manager, Environment and Transportation Department

Dublin City Council

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

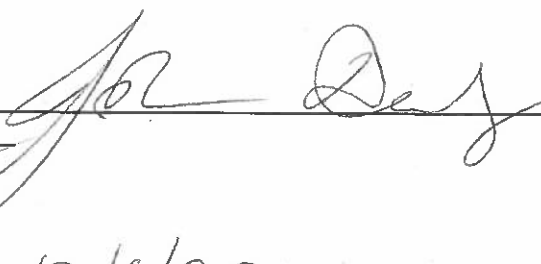
Dated: 12/8/24. \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed on behalf of the Fingal County Council:**

John Daly

Acting Director of Services, Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel

Fingal County Council

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 12/8/2024 \_\_\_\_\_

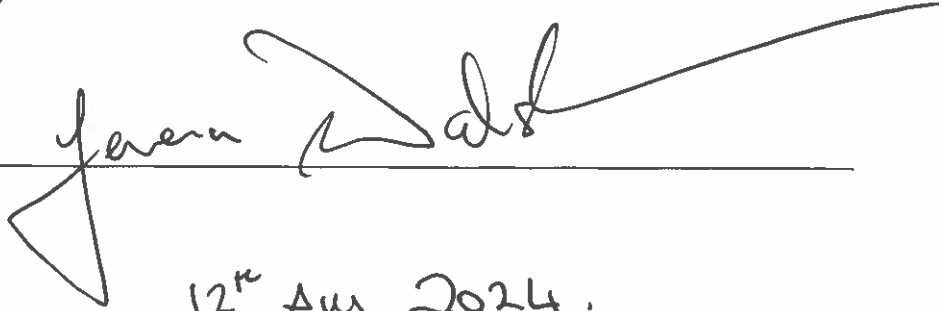
**Signed on behalf of South Dublin County Council:**

Teresa Walsh

Director of Services, Environment, Water and Climate Change

South Dublin County Council

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Walsh', written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

12<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024.

**Signed on behalf of the Kildare County Council:**

Celina Barrett

A/ Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Kildare County Council

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Celina Barrett', written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

9<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Signed on behalf of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council:**

Paul Kennedy

Director of Services, Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic)

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Signature: Margaret Hackett For Paul Kennedy  
(A/DOO)

Dated: 14/08/24

**Signed on behalf of Wicklow County Council:**

Joe Lane

Director of Services, Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery and Emergency Services

Wicklow County Council

Signature: Joe Lane

Dated: 13/8/2024.