

Reference Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of Draft Northern Ireland Marine Bill

Dear Sir/Madam

The Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) is the General Lighthouse Authority for all of Ireland, its adjacent seas and islands. CIL carry out the obligations of the British & Irish Governments in relation to the provision of Aids to Navigation (AtoN) around the entire coast of Ireland commensurate with the amount of traffic and degree of risk under the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS).

CIL operate and maintain extensive aids to navigation infrastructure on the Northern Island coast and offshore islands.

The new NI Marine Bill allows for the introduction of Marine Conservation Zones and these zones have the potential to place restrictions on general navigation and the maintenance of our stations. It is important that navigational safety is preserved and our personnel have clear access by sea and air to our stations to carry out maintenance, refurbishment and replenishment operations. Accordingly we respectfully request that the Commissioners of Irish Lights are included in the list of relevant authorities to be given notice where the Department decides to prepare a marine plan as described in Schedule 1.

For the same reasons as above CIL also wish to be included as consultees in the planning processes as described in Schedule 2

I would greatly appreciate acknowledgment of this communication.

Harry McClenahan

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