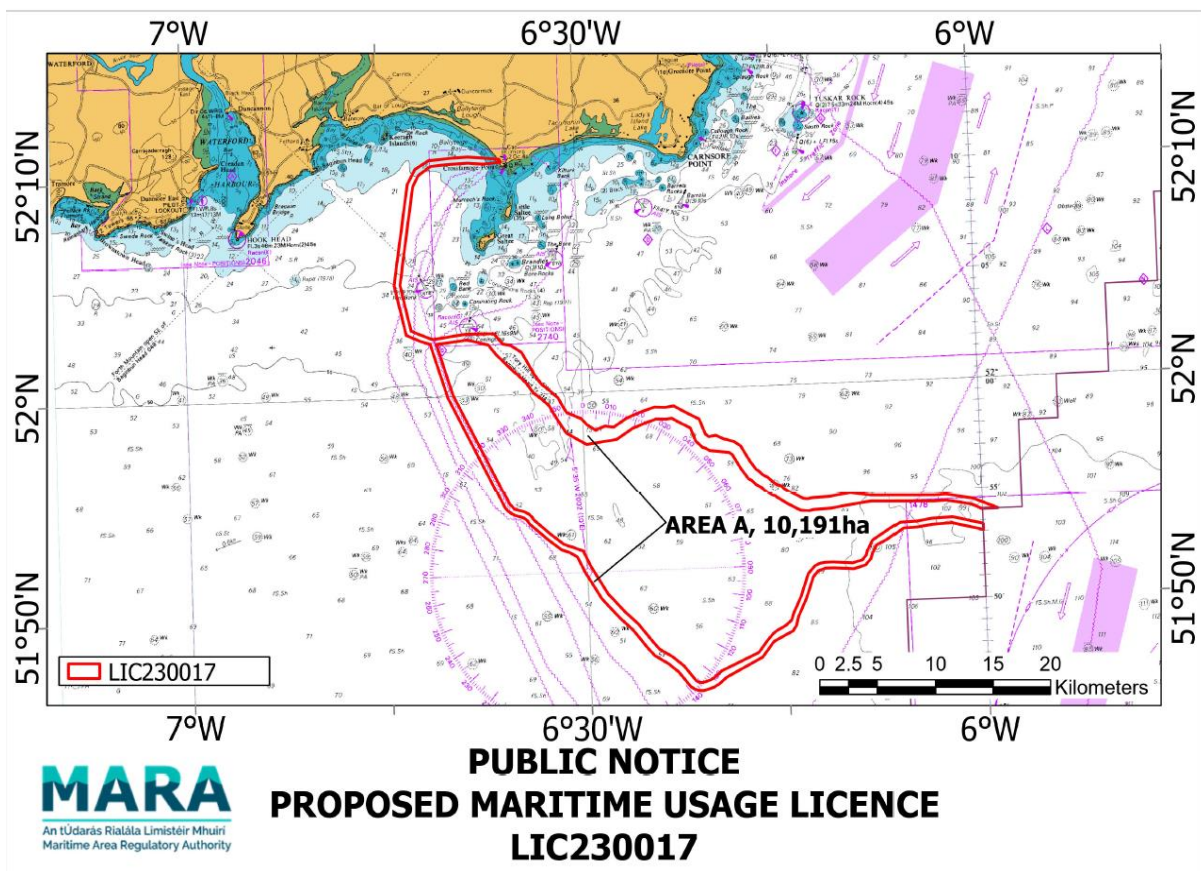


## PUBLIC NOTICE

### The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd. has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation. The proposed surveys will consist of geophysical, geotechnical, environmental (benthic sampling), an archaeological survey and intertidal landfall surveys (including bar probes and 3 Trial Pits). These surveys are proposed to investigate the feasibility of constructing a new subsea telecoms cable system, linking Wales to Ireland, from a landfall on the northwest coast of Wales to a landfall at Kilmore Quay on the southeast coast of Ireland. The surveys are anticipated to take less than 6 weeks in total and will be completed over a 6-month period.



## **Appropriate Assessment Determination**

On 24 April 2024 following screening by MARA under regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), a determination was made that the proposed maritime usage referred to above, either alone or in-combination with other projects, will/will not delete as appropriate adversely affect the integrity of any European Site. The determination was made on the basis of objective scientific information. A copy of the determination is available at [LIC230017 - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

In considering this matter MARA had regard to the following:

- The screening for appropriate assessment report prepared by MARA;
- The environmental report prepared by MARA;
- The application documents submitted by Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd. which informed the screening for appropriate assessment.

## **Public Consultation**

A Public Consultation will open shortly, at which time there will be an opportunity to make a submission(s) to MARA on the application. All information regarding the Public Consultation will be available on MARA's website at the following link: [LIC230017 - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

## **Judicial review of the appropriate assessment determination**

The validity of the appropriate assessment determination may be questioned by judicial review under order 84 of the Superior Courts Rules (S.I. No 15 of 1986) in accordance with chapter 8, part 5 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, any application for leave to apply for judicial review must be made promptly and in any event within eight weeks of the date of this notice. Practical information on judicial review can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board, Ground Floor, George's Quay House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2 ([www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)) or from the Courts website ([www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie)).

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority