

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

On the 21 November 2023 Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence (licence reference no. LIC230018) under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (“the MAP Act”) to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigations for a proposed subsea fibre optic cable having a landfall in Portmarnock, County Dublin. On 3 July 2024, MARA determined to grant the licence for the marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigations, subject to conditions.

In connection with the above licence application and following a public consultation under section 117(6) (b) of the MAP Act, MARA carried out an appropriate assessment of the marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigations. On the 21 June 2024 MARA determined that the marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigations (either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects) would not adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites¹, in view of the European Sites’ conservation objectives, subject to the implementation of mitigation measures.

The appropriate assessment report and the appropriate assessment determination dated 21 June 2024 are available [LIC230018 - 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 MAP Act. 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

¹ As defined in the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011

Street, Dublin 2 (www.citizensinformation.ie) or from the Courts website (www.courts.ie).

Dated this 09 day of July 2024

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority