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Mary O'Hara,
Secretary,
Aquaculture Licenses Appeals Board,
Killminchy Court,
Dublin Road,
Port Laoise,
County Laoise.

Your Ref: AP2/1/17 and AP3/1/17

RE: APPEALS AGAINST THE GRANT OF AQUACULTURE AND FORESHORE LICENSES ON
BRAADE STRAND, COUNTY DONEGAL
MY CLIENTS: CARRICKFIN TRUST LIMITED

Dear Ms O'Hara,

I thank you for your letters of 13th February 2017 enclosing copies of Appeals made by other Appellants in relation to appeals lodged by the Carrickfin Trust Limited. I am aware that Coiste Timpeallachta an Ghaoith submitted four appeals in respect of each of the licenses, for which appeals were lodged also by the Carrickfin Trust. However, you have only sent to me copies of Appeals by Coiste Timpeallachta an Ghaoith in relation to the licenses granted to Celtic Kerber Ltd, (T12/419A,B and C) and John Boyle (T12/430A and B) and Thierry Gillaudeau and Desmond Moore (T12/410A, B). I do not appear to have received any copy Appeal in relation to the fourth license which was granted at the same time to Gary Boyle (T12/438A, B). In any event, I am aware of the terms of the Appeals submitted by Coiste

Timpeallachta an Ghaoith and I would make the following observations on behalf of the Carrickfin Trust Limited, which apply equally to all four Appeals lodged by Coiste Timpeallachta an Ghaoith.

It is quite clear from the facts stated in support of the Appeal that there is at Braade Strand particularly along the Eastern Shore thereof, an exceptionally strong and perhaps unique Gaelic Culture where the local population have kept alive ancient traditions in a setting where the Irish language lives on as the first language of the area and where the local population are proudly conscious of their local cultural heritage. They value their historic culture, particularly in the setting of a local landscape, which is characterised by the large title estuary of Braade Strand adjoining exceptional grasslands of Machair and Marram grass of a kind found only in this part of Ireland and the Hebridean Islands of Scotland and nowhere else in Europe. Apart from the fact that the Minister's decision to grant these licenses indicates disregard by his department for national and local law on environmental protection, the licenses were granted without any consultation or dialogue with the local population. This is not surprising in circumstances where the newspaper advertisement placed by the Minister was in a newspaper which is well known to have a lower circulation than the main local newspaper in West Donegal, but more specifically the advertisement was published in English only and not in Irish, which was a serious omission in relation to a Gaeltacht area where the Irish language is genuinely the first language of the local population.

The Carrickfin Trust Limited is aware of the traditions and culture referred to in the Appeals by Coiste Timpeallachta an Ghaoith and adopts and endorses the arguments eloquently made by Coiste Timpeallachta an Ghaoith in their four Appeals.

Finally, I would urge the Board to deal with all of the outstanding appeals in respect of all four of the licenses granted on Braade Strand in a single oral hearing, as this is the only way in which the Board could discharge its duty to have regard to, not only the individual effects, but also the cumulative effects of these licenses when taken together in relation to the effects on the environment and other issues referred to in the Appeals.

I am sending to you four original copies of this letter and should be obliged if you would place one on each of the Appeal files.

I trust this is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Gillespie
GILLESPIE BOYLE