ATKINS
Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

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Our Ref: 5162160CO250

Vincent O'Malley
Trans ort Infrastructure Ireland
[redacted]

30th June 2021

By email to: [redacted]

Re. Submission regarding Ecological Clerk of Works - Culverts

Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) Eirspan Bridge Management System covers all aspects of bridge management including routine maintenance. As part of this project, it is proposed to install concrete inverts to existing corrugated steel culverts under National Roads. These culverts were installed during the 1970s and 80s. The culverts now show signs of significant corrosion and to maintain their structural integrity, a concrete invert liner is to be installed. Under the current Bridges Routine Term Maintenance Contract TII have selected 7 corrugated steel culverts for concrete invert lining. These culverts are as listed below: -

- *Boherduff Bridge (MO-N17-012.00), Co. Mayo [Our Ref: 5162160CI245]*
- *Glen Bridges (DL-N56-007.00 & DL-N56-008.00), Co. Donegal [Our Ref: 5162160CO246]*
- *Coolturk Bridge (MO-N59-006.00), Co. Mayo [Our Ref: 5162160CI247]*
- *Killaha Culvert (KY-N22-024.00), Co. Kerry [Our Ref: 5162555CO41]*
- *Derryreag Culvert (KY-N22-028.00), Co. Kerry [Our Ref: 5162555CO42]*
- *Knockakip (KY-N21-016.00), Co. Kerry [Our Ref: 5162160CO43]*
- *Teesan Culvert (n.a.), Co. Sligo [Our Ref: 5162160CO248]*

In recent weeks Atkins made a number of submissions to TII Environment in response to submissions received from the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media pursuant to the requirements of Regulation 49(9)(c) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) (references to letters shown above).

In these submissions, Atkins on behalf of TII indicated that "*It is further our understanding that the Contract to be put in place by TII will include both engineering and ecological oversight necessary to ensure that mitigation measures proposed in the NIS will be "carried out in full as part of project implementation" as required by the Department in correspondence dealing with similar work on culverts. This will include the requirement that the appointed Contractor has an ecologist on their team; as well as the appointment by TII of a Resident Engineer and Ecological Clerk of Works*".

The ecological support will take the following form. Each Contractor (i.e. Jons in the Northwest / Cumnor in Munster) will be required to appoint an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW); the following outline scope of works will allow the Contractor to provide a scope of works to TII for these professional services. Furthermore, Atkins will provide an appropriately qualified ecologist in order to provide oversight of

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works and the ECoW role to TII. However, it should be noted that responsibility for delivery of environmental measures ultimately lies with the appointed Contractor.

The Contractor's ecologist will be required to fulfil the following tasks –

1. Review of engineering & ecological documentation / ongoing liaison with Contractor / Atkins / TII;

2. Preconstruction Ecology Visit

   The scope of the visit will be informed by the characteristics of each specific culvert (as set out in the NIS and subsequent correspondence) and will at a minimum include a check for otter (*Lutra lutra*), nesting birds and invasive plant species.

   The preconstruction survey must occur prior to the Contractor mobilising on site, but also as close to the mobilisation date as is practical. The Contractor's ecologist will prepare a Technical Memo on the findings which will be provided to the Contractor; it should also be provided to Atkin's ecologist & TII.

3. Presentation of Toolbox Talk to Site Staff prior to commencement of works on site.

4. The ECoW will be required to attend site during mobilisation, notably during the establishment of surface water control measures in order to ensure they are working effectively and to communicate it's status to Atkin's ecologist & TII.

5. The ECoW will also be required to attend site during de-mobilisation, removal of surface water control measures and reinstatement of natural flow patterns.

6. Once available the Contractor will provide an outline programme of works to the ECoW. This will allow the ECoW to determine, when, if any, additional site visits may be needed.

- In addition to preparing a scope of works for predictable tasks, the ECoW will be required to be available for any on-site emergencies. This will be used to cover situations such e.g. i) if the programme of works is significantly altered by delays or adverse weather conditions; or ii) if the site needs to be demobilised due to a predicted bad weather event.

As noted, Atkins ecologist will provide oversight of the above on behalf of TII. This will also include for site visits to ensure all proposed mitigation measures are in fact operating effectively.

Yours sincerely,

Paul O'Donoghue
Associate Director / Ecolo ist
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