

Galway Harbour Company



Galway Harbour Extension

Response to An Bord Pleanála Sept. 2024

EIS Addendum Chapter 13.7

Safety, Health & Welfare



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13.7.1. Introduction

Chapter 13.7 of the original Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) sets out the Safety, Health & Welfare elements of the proposed Galway Harbour Extension. The chapter details the following:

- Concept Design and Planning
- Preparatory Investigations
- Scheme Design
- Construction Procurement
- Detailed Construction Design
- Preparatory Construction Activities
- Construction On-Site
- Construction Interfaces with Neighbouring Activities
- Operational Handover
- Lifetime Operation
- Element Maintenance/Repair/Removal/Replacement

13.7.2. Report Format

The purpose of this report is to bring the EIS up to date. There are no changes to the proposed development and so the purpose of this section of the EIS Addendum 2024 is to check whether there are any updates required to Chapter 13.7.

13.7.3. Review of any material changes to relevant chapter in original EIS.

Chapter 13.7 identifies the health and safety consideration for the proposal. The matters considered as outlined in the bullet points above all remain relevant. There are no changes to the project design and, therefore, there are no amendments to health and safety considerations. There are no findings to be updated.

13.7.4. Summary of previous conclusions of chapter in original EIS.

The Health & Safety considerations remain the same as outlined previously. There have been some amendments to the references and they are confirmed in Section 13.7.5. below.

13.7.5. Any additional surveys, data or policy developments of relevance.

The relevant up to date references are in italics below:

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

HSA Guidelines on the Procurement, Design and Management Requirements of the Safety health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (Updated)

13.7.6. Assessment of validity of earlier conclusions or any necessary amendments to same.

A review has been carried out on the above and there are no changes to the principles of Health & Safety for this project and therefore the principles of the considerations of Health & Safety remain valid. Chapter 13.7 as submitted in January, 2014 outlines that potential significant health and safety impacts of this project are largely associated with the construction and operation of the New Harbour Extension.

The potential health and safety impacts during construction are mainly related to the personnel involved with the construction process itself. These include engulfment in the soft soils being placed in the contained land reclamation areas, drowning associated with all of the marine activities, interfaces between machinery and personnel, installation of heavy pre-fabricated elements, underwater activities during installation of the quay structures, and the use of explosives in trench preparation and berth deepening in rock.

The protection of the safety of construction personnel, and also interface of the works with neighbouring activities (general public or commercial traffic), is provided in a detailed systematic process, described in the original chapter. Each step in this process involves competent persons taking actions, within their control and area of expertise, to minimise risks to persons arising from the works. This process commenced at the start of the project when Galway Harbour Company appointed competent designers, planners and Project Supervisor Design Process (“PSDP”), all of whom play an important role in the process of ensuring the preparation for a safe construction project. Later further appointments of competent persons including PSDP (post-tender), construction designers, Project Supervisor Construction Stage (“PSCS”) and contractors, will see the continuation of this systematic project safety process.

13.7.7. Cumulative Impacts

In relation to Health & Safety the construction phase of adjacent projects were considered in line with the cumulative impacts study assessment as outlined in Chapter 2 and Appendix 2.1.

As the works on the Galway Harbour Extension are localised, remote from the city in an underwater or on ground that has already been developed the cumulative impact is imperceptible. The Galway Harbour Extension project will have its own Health & Safety measures as will any projects that are adjacent.

No projects of cumulative significance have been constructed since the original EIS was submitted in 2014, and there are no permitted but unbuilt projects of potential cumulative significance.

All projects will be carried out in accordance with Health and Safety requirements which are in place at the time of construction

Any potential cumulative impacts between the construction of the proposed development and the other projects in terms of health and safety will be mitigated by the requirement for all projects to adhere to Health & Safety legislation. There will therefore be no significant cumulative effects in terms of health and safety.

13.7.8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Safety, Health and Welfare considerations relevant to the proposed development of Galway Harbour Extension are all still relevant and the development proposal remains in line with the brief and criteria of the EIS as originally submitted in 2014. The construction will be carried out in accordance with Health and Safety requirements which are in place at the time of construction. The health and safety requirements are all covered under legislation and will continue to be adhered to for the remaining stages of the project. It is hereby confirmed that the assessment and conclusions in the EIS relating to health and safety accordingly remain valid as of the present time.

