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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

11 FEB 2022

CORK

9th February 2022

RE: Response to "Warning Letter regarding the operation of unauthorised facilities adjacent to the licensed piggery of Martin O Donovan, Licence Register Number P0621-02 (The Licence) at Colligboy, Timoleague, County Cork", dated 27th January 2022.

Dear Peter.

I confirm receipt of the above referenced correspondence as received 28th January 2022.

I have reviewed the correspondence and confirm the following

1. That the new development as referenced is under my control, and said development is being constructed incorporating best technologies such as, slurry cooling, heat recovery, under slat slurry collection to separate covered tank, and fresh slurry removal to an anaerobic digester.
2. That this new development which is still under construction, is being used only as an overflow for stock, to facilitate upgrade works on some older houses, and to manage stock flow to the factories, which have been delayed due to Brexit.
3. The delay in moving finishers off the farm, is solely due to the current crisis, where slaughter capacity has been restricted, due to a number of factors (ie; Covid, Staff Shortages in processing facilities, and Shortage of DAFM Veterinary Inspectors etc).
4. I also want to state that the pig industry is now in the midst of the worst financial crisis in my lifetime, with the market returning low pig price while at the same time the cost of feed has risen a third year on year.
5. I also confirm that I have undertaken a broad search of all possible alternative pig stock houses and farms, to facilitate moving stock off site. This search is ongoing, but is negatively impacted as many pig farmers are being similarly negatively impacted due to ongoing market restrictions.
6. Finally I confirm that I have actioned the preparation of a licence review application since Quarter 2 2021, and a substantial volume of work has been undertaken in respect of same. Progress has been hampered due to Covid restrictions, availability of key experts for the preparation of ecological assessments, and dispersion modelling, and the delay in the publishing of the Agency's new guidelines for the pig sector. This is a family operated pig farm which we have developed with high level of investment incorporating latest design elements in respect of low emission housing, as well as our involvement in the development of a local anaerobic digester.

We are committed to the development of a sustainable enterprise, and conscious of the regulatory requirements and despite the restrictions referred to above, are working with Michael Fogarty

(Katestone) to finalise dispersion models. On completion that will then facilitate completion of the Review application which will then be submitted to the Agency.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O Donovan", written over a horizontal line.

Martin O Donovan

