



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Update on the EIA Agri Regulations for the National Hydromorphology Programme Meeting

Ted Massey,  
Water & Air Quality Division  
10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

# Background



- The EIA (Agriculture) Regulations introduced in 2011 (SI 456 of 2011, as amended).
- Require environmental assessment of projects above a certain threshold to assess the effects of such works on the environment.
- **Screening** – if it is deemed that no significant environmental impact is likely, approval is granted by DAFM to proceed.
- **Consent** - the applicant employs an ecologist to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment report.

# EIA Review



- Significant changes in terms of EU and national policy as well as societal expectations regarding biodiversity.
- The Programme for Government committed to a review of the EIA (Agriculture) Regulations.
- As part of that review process, a public consultation was conducted in 2023 – 64 submissions received.

## Summary of current screening and mandatory EIA thresholds

Type of on-farm activity:	Screening by DAFM required	Consent (Mandatory EIA) required
<b>Restructuring of rural land holdings for agricultural purposes</b>		
Length of field boundary to be removed	Above 500m	Above 4kms
<b>Or</b> Area of lands to be restructured by removal of field boundaries	Above 5 hectares	Above 50 hectares
Recontouring (within farm holding)	Above 2 hectares	Above 50 hectares
<b>Alteration of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for agricultural purposes</b>	Above 5 hectares	Above 50 hectares
<b>Land drainage works on lands used for agriculture (other than</b>	Above 15 hectares	Above 50 hectares

# Next Steps



- Submissions have been reviewed
- Ongoing discussions at Ministerial level
- Revised legislation being drafted
- Publication of legislation



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