



Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2.

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

10 August 2016

Mr. Finian McGrath TD
Minister of State at the Department for Social Protection,
Justice and Equality and Health with special responsibilities for Disabilities,
Store Street
Floor 3
Dublin 1

Dear Finian

I refer to your letter dated 13th July, 2016 on behalf of Mr. Joe McPeake, Howth Yacht Club, regarding the dredging of the harbour at Howth.

Howth Fishery Harbour Centre is one of the six designated Fishery Harbour Centres, which are owned, managed and maintained by this Department under Statute.

Notwithstanding the prevailing economic environment in which we operate, I am happy to advise that in excess of €5.9 million has been invested in maintenance, development and upgrading works at Howth FHC as part of my Department's Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme from 2011 to 2015.

With regard to a possible dredging project in Howth Fishery Harbour Centre the current position is that a draft report from a site investigation project which was commissioned in 2015 was received in March 2016. The draft report has been assessed by the Department's engineers. This report includes vital information on the nature of the material to be dredged in any future dredging project. In this context €100,000 has been allocated this year for the preparation of a Dumping at Sea Licence.

My Department has also recently appointed a Consulting Engineer to examine the various options for dredging and disposal of dredged material based on the information in the Site Investigation Report.

Depending on the outcome of this process, and as is the case for all developments in the six Fishery Harbour Centres, a possible future dredging project at Howth Fishery Harbour Centre will be considered under future Capital Programmes on the basis of available exchequer funding and competing priorities.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely

Michael Creed T.D.
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine