PURSER

EIA Screening

Part 8 for Outdoor Events at Tallaght Stadium

24.11.2026

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 EIA Screening Statement

Purser has prepared this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report on behalf of South Dublin County Council in respect of the proposed Part 8 development to facilitate the additional use of Tallaght Stadium, Whitestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24, for outdoor concerts, musical performances and similar cultural and entertainment events. The subject site is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

The application site comprises the existing Tallaght Stadium and associated grounds, including the stadium car park to the south. It is principally bounded by the N81 Tallaght Bypass to the north; Whitestown Way to the west; Old Bawn Community School, associated playing fields and Sean Walsh Memorial Park to the east; and adjoining parkland to the south. The surrounding area includes a mixture of residential, commercial, educational and recreational uses.

The proposed development will facilitate a maximum of five outdoor concerts, musical performances and similar cultural and entertainment events in any calendar year, with a maximum audience attendance of 22,000 persons per event and a curfew of 22:45 for amplified concert music. The existing sporting and associated uses of the stadium will be maintained.

The proposed development will also include minor permanent works comprising the widening of four existing pitch-access gates, one at each corner of the playing pitch, from 3 metres to a clear width of 9 metres each. Individual events will involve the temporary installation of staging and production facilities, pitch protection, audience areas, barriers, sound and lighting equipment, sanitary facilities, food and beverage concessions, accessible viewing facilities and associated event infrastructure. These facilities will be removed following each event, with the stadium returned to its established sporting use.

The proposed event use will be supported by an overarching Event Management Strategy, with detailed operational arrangements to be established for individual events, including crowd management, access and egress, transport, emergency access and noise management.

The purpose of this report is to provide South Dublin County Council, as the competent authority, with the information necessary to determine whether the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment and, accordingly, whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required.



Figure 1.1: Location of the subject site. Site boundary indicated by a red line. Source: myplan.ie. (Annotated by Purser)

1.2 Screening Objective

The overall objective of an EIA Screening is to identify and assess the potential for likely significant environmental effects associated with the proposed development and to determine if a statutory EIA is required. The requirement for a statutory EIA is set out in the mandatory and discretionary provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) (the Act) and in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) (the Regulations). The provisions relating to EIA screening for local authority development are set out in Article 120 of the Regulations.

Projects listed in Schedule 5, Part 1, of the Regulations will be subject to mandatory assessment (Article 4(1) of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (together, the EIA Directive)) as they are deemed to be projects which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Others, listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 of the Regulations, contain threshold levels and criteria, and for projects that fall below these thresholds and criteria, it is the decision of the competent authority to determine if an EIA (and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)) is required. Whether a 'sub-threshold' development should be subject to an EIA is determined by the likelihood that the development would result in significant environmental effects. Significant effects may arise due to the nature of the development, its scale or extent and its location in relation to the characteristics of the receiving area, particularly sensitive environments.

This report documents the methodology employed to complete the screening exercise, having regard to relevant legislation and guidance documents. It also sets out a clear rationale for each decision of this screening exercise. The following documents were consulted:

- Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EPA 2003);
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA May 2022);
- Environmental Assessments of Plans, Programmes and Projects – Rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union (European Union 2017);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on Scoping (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) (European Union 2017);
- Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Environmental Impact Assessment (European Union 2013);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on the Preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (European Union 2017);
- European Commission 2017. Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU);
- EU Commission Guidance on Interpretation of Definitions of Project Categories of Annex I and II of the EIA Directive (2015);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on Carrying Out Environmental Impact Assessment (Government of Ireland 2018);

- Key Issues Consultation Paper on the Transposition of 2014 EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) in the Land Use Planning and EPA Licensing Systems (Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government 2017);
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions (European Communities 1999);
- Implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (European Communities 2003); and
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Practice Note (2021).

The screening process followed in this report is in accordance with the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU and as transposed by the Act and the Regulations, and follows the format set out in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines (2022). The potential for significant effects of the proposed development has been considered against the criteria under Annex IIA of the EIA Directive and Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

1.3 Screening Methodology

The screening process followed in this report is in accordance with the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, and follows the format set out in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines (2022). The key steps for screening a development for EIA, as outlined in the EPA Guidelines, are as follows:

1. Is the development a type that requires EIA?
2. Is it of a type that requires mandatory EIA?
3. Is it above the specified threshold?
4. Is it a type of project that could lead to effects? and/or
5. Is it a sensitive location? and/or
6. Could the effects be significant?

The information required to be submitted for the Competent Authority to make a determination on EIA Screening is set out in Schedule 7A of the Regulations of 2001 (see also Annex IIA of the EIA Directive).

However, it is important to note that Schedule 7A states *'The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 [of Schedule 7A] shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.'* Having regard to this for the purposes of compiling the relevant information on the likely effects of the proposed development and in order to address points 4 to 6 above, an evaluation of the characteristics of the project, the sensitivity of the location of the proposed development, and the potential for significant impacts has been made with regard to Schedule 7 of the Regulations. Schedule 7 of the Regulations sets out the criteria for the Competent Authority to determine whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria are broadly set out under the three main headings

"1) Characteristics of proposed development

a) the size and design of the whole of the proposed development,
b) cumulation with other existing development and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of Section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment,
c) the nature of any associated demolition works,
d) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity,
e) the production of waste,
f) pollution and nuisances,
g) the risk of major accidents, and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge, and
h) the risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution).

2) Location of proposed development

a) the existing and approved land use,
b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground,
c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
    i. wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;
    ii. coastal zones and the marine environment;
    iii. mountain and forest areas;
    iv. nature reserves and parks;
    v. areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive and;
    vi. areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the European Union and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
    vii. densely populated areas;
    viii. landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

3) Types and Characteristics of Potential Impacts

The likely significant effects on the environment of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to the impact of the project on the factors specified in paragraph (b)(i)(I) to (V) of the definition of 'environmental impact assessment report' in Section 171A of the Act, taking into account—

a. the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example, geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
b. the nature of the impact,
c. the transboundary nature of the impact,
d. the intensity and complexity of the impact,

e. *the probability of the impact,*
f. *the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact,*
g. *the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of Section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment, and*
h. *the possibility of effectively reducing the impact*."

However, it is important to note that Schedule 7A states *'The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 [of Schedule 7A] shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7*.' The main body of this report (Sections 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0) covers Schedule 7A fully, but it has been set out to present the information under the headings provided for in Schedule 7 in order to assist in the screening assessment.

2.0 Proposed Development

2.1 Site Location and Description

The proposed development is located at Tallaght Stadium, Whitestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24, within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council. The stadium is situated immediately south of the N81 Tallaght Bypass, within the wider Tallaght Town Centre area and at the north-western extent of Sean Walsh Memorial Park.

The subject site comprises an established football stadium, with permanent spectator accommodation provided within four stands surrounding the central playing pitch. The stadium contains 10,726 permanent seats and has an existing sporting capacity of approximately 10,500 spectators. It includes associated concourses, spectator facilities, operational accommodation, access and circulation areas, and car parking facilities to the south.

The overall stadium site was previously recorded as approximately 4.12 hectares in the 2020 North Stand EIA Screening Report. The extent of the current Part 8 application site is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

Immediate context:

- **North:** N81 Tallaght Bypass, with Tallaght Town Centre and The Square Shopping Centre located further north.
- **East:** Sean Walsh Memorial Park and Old Bawn Community School, together with associated recreational and educational facilities.
- **West:** Whitestown Way, with established residential and commercial development in the surrounding area.
- **South:** Existing stadium car parking facilities, Council park facilities and adjoining public open space associated with Sean Walsh Memorial Park.

Access: Vehicular access to the stadium is provided from Whitestown Way at the south-western side of the site. Pedestrian access is available through entrances located around the stadium perimeter, with connections to the surrounding footpath network and Tallaght Town Centre.

The stadium is served by the Luas Red Line and a number of bus routes operating through Tallaght. The N81 provides access to the wider road network, while the pedestrian overbridge across the N81 provides a connection between the stadium area and The Square Shopping Centre.

The wider setting comprises a mixture of commercial, residential, educational, civic and recreational uses. The proximity of residential areas and public open spaces is relevant to the assessment of potential environmental effects associated with the proposed additional event use.

2.2 Project Description

The proposed development consists of:

Additional Event Use

- Additional use of Tallaght Stadium and associated lands for outdoor concerts, musical performances and similar cultural and entertainment events, for a maximum of five such events in any calendar year.
- Provision for a maximum audience attendance of 22,000 persons per event, comprising seated spectators within the existing stands and standing spectators on the playing pitch, subject to the assessed event configuration and associated safety requirements.
- Continued use of the existing stadium infrastructure, including spectator stands, concourses, access and egress points, sanitary facilities and ancillary accommodation, to support the proposed events.

Minor Permanent Development Works

- Minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates of 3 metres width, located at each corner of the playing pitch, to provide a clear width of 9 metres each.
- All associated minor works necessary to facilitate the proposed gate widening and maintain safe access and egress between the playing pitch and surrounding stadium circulation areas.

Temporary Event Infrastructure and Associated Arrangements

- Temporary installation of a stage, sound and lighting equipment, production facilities, Front of House area, delay towers and associated technical infrastructure.
- Provision of temporary protective surfacing across the playing pitch to accommodate standing spectators and associated event activity.
- Temporary installation of audience barriers, crowd-control infrastructure, queuing facilities, signage and wayfinding measures.
- Provision of temporary sanitary facilities, food and beverage concessions, merchandise facilities, medical provision and accessible viewing accommodation.
- Provision of temporary servicing and operational areas, including production vehicle access, equipment storage, emergency access routes and designated areas for coach and shuttle operations.
- Event-specific arrangements for spectator access and egress, crowd management, traffic management, public transport, pedestrian dispersal, noise management, waste collection and post-event cleaning.
- Dismantling and removal of temporary infrastructure following each event, together with any necessary inspection, maintenance and reinstatement of the playing pitch and other areas temporarily used for event operations.

The proposed development will be accommodated principally within the existing stadium and its associated grounds. The permanent works are limited to the identified pitch-access gate widening, while the staging,

production equipment and supporting event facilities will be temporary. The stadium will retain its primary sporting function.

For assessment purposes, an indicative concert layout has been prepared by Purser in consultation with Safe Events Global, based on the proposed maximum audience attendance of 22,000 persons per event. The layout establishes the principal audience areas, temporary infrastructure and operational arrangements against which the proposed event use has been assessed. Individual events may operate at lower attendances and with different configurations, provided they remain within the parameters assessed as part of the Part 8 proposal.

South Dublin County Council has established a curfew of 22:45 for amplified concert music.

2.2.1 Drainage and Water Supply

2.2.1.1 Surface water

The subject site comprises an existing stadium with established surface water drainage infrastructure. The proposed development principally involves the additional use of the stadium for outdoor concerts and similar events, together with minor works to widen four existing pitch-access gates.

No substantial construction works or additional impermeable surfaces are proposed. Accordingly, no material changes to the existing surface water drainage arrangements are anticipated.

The accompanying Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment requires existing drainage inlets to be kept clear of temporary event infrastructure and inspected before and after each event to minimise the risk of localised surface water ponding.

The flood risk management measures identified in Section 7 of the accompanying Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment shall be incorporated into the Event Management Plan and Event Traffic Management Plan for each event, with responsibility for their implementation assigned to a nominated Event Safety Officer.

2.2.1.2 Water Supply

The proposed development does not involve any material changes to the existing stadium water supply infrastructure. Additional water requirements associated with temporary event facilities will be addressed through the servicing arrangements established for each individual event.

2.2.2 Sustainable Drainage / Nature-based Solutions

The proposed development principally involves the additional use of the existing stadium for outdoor concerts and similar events, together with minor works associated with the widening of four existing pitch-access gates.

No substantial construction works, additional impermeable surfaces or material changes to the existing drainage infrastructure are proposed. Accordingly, the existing surface water drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) arrangements will remain substantially unchanged.

2.2.2.1 Foul Drainage

Temporary toilet facilities will be provided for individual events to supplement the existing sanitary facilities within Tallaght Stadium.

The number and location of temporary toilets will be determined having regard to the anticipated attendance and event-specific operational requirements. The facilities will be serviced and maintained throughout each event.

Wastewater arising from temporary sanitary facilities and food and beverage concessions will be contained, collected and removed from the site for authorised disposal. Temporary wastewater facilities will not be connected to the existing drainage network.

The existing permanent sanitary facilities will continue to utilise the established foul drainage infrastructure. No material alterations to the existing permanent foul drainage infrastructure are proposed.

2.2.3 Construction Management

The proposed development involves limited permanent construction works, comprising the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates within the stadium's pitch perimeter walls to provide a clear width from 3 metres to 9 metres each. No substantial construction works or new buildings are proposed.

Given the limited nature and extent of these works, a separate Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has not been prepared. The works will be undertaken in accordance with relevant health and safety requirements and appropriate construction practices, including measures to minimise noise and dust, prevent pollution of surface water and manage and dispose of construction waste appropriately.

The remaining elements of the proposed development comprise temporary infrastructure required to facilitate individual events, including staging, production equipment, pitch protection and ancillary facilities. The installation, operation and dismantling of this infrastructure will be managed in accordance with the Event Management Plan prepared for each event, including the relevant arrangements for servicing, waste management, noise control and reinstatement of the stadium following event activity.

2.3 Planning History

Purser carried out a planning history search in relation to the subject site using the South Dublin County Council and An Coimisiún Pleanála online planning search tools. The relevant planning history is outlined below, with particular consideration given to previous development at Tallaght Stadium and its relevance to the current Part 8 proposal.

2.3.1 Subject Site

Tallaght Stadium has an established planning history dating back to the original stadium permission in 1998. Subsequent permissions and Part 8 procedures have facilitated the completion and phased expansion of the stadium, including the construction of the South and North Stands.

The planning history of the subject site is summarised in Table 2.1 below.

Reg. Ref.	Development	Decision / Outcome	Date
S97A/0063	Original application for a 10,000-seat football stadium, playing pitch, floodlights, clubhouse and associated facilities.	Permission granted on appeal[1] by An Bord Pleanála under Ref. PL.06S.102312. Condition No. 1 limited the capacity of the stadium to 6,000 persons.	14 January 1998
S97A/0063/EP	Extension of the duration of the original stadium permission.	Granted. The duration of the permission was extended to 31 October 2004.	17 September 2003
S97A/0063/FEP	Further extension of the duration of the original stadium permission.	Refused.	14 December 2004
SD058/0016	Part 8 for completion of Tallaght Stadium as a 6,000-seat football stadium, including spectator accommodation, clubhouse facilities and associated works.	Council ultimately resolved to proceed with the original stadium plans following consideration of an enlarged playing-pitch option.	13 February 2006
SD168/0004	Part 8 for a new South Stand containing 2,195 seats, together with ancillary and welfare accommodation and a new access/egress through the southern boundary.	Part 8 adopted and approved by South Dublin County Council.	9 January 2017

[1] A request was made to An Bord Pleanála for access to the full appeal case file relating to Ref. PL.06S.102312. However, the Board advised that the file could not be located and was therefore unavailable for review. Accordingly, the assessment of the appeal and the conditions imposed is based on the documentation available through South Dublin County Council's planning records, including the subsequent condition-compliance documentation.

SD208/0006	Part 8 for a new North Stand, refurbishment of the West Stand, accessibility works to the South Stand and associated access, circulation and infrastructure works. The Traffic and Transport Assessment calculated a resulting maximum stadium capacity of 10,547 spectators.	Part 8 approved.	12 October 2020

Table 2.1: Planning History of the Subject Site (Source: South Dublin County Council)

The previous permissions and Part 8 approvals relate principally to the construction, expansion and operation of Tallaght Stadium as a sporting venue. The original stadium application (Reg. Ref. S97A/0063) was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The subsequent Part 8 Ref. SD208/0006, which provided for the North Stand and associated stadium upgrades, was accompanied by an EIA Screening Report. The original 6,000-person capacity restriction relates to the historic permission and does not represent the stadium's current sporting capacity following subsequent expansion.

The current proposal differs from these earlier developments, as it principally seeks to facilitate additional outdoor concert and event use within the existing stadium, together with limited permanent works comprising the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates. The environmental effects associated with the proposed event use are therefore considered separately as part of the current screening exercise.

2.3.2 Other Nearby Sites

A review of planning applications in the vicinity of the subject site was undertaken using South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) planning records. The review focused on developments within approximately 1 km of the stadium, together with relevant wider infrastructure proposals that could interact with the proposed event use. Applications granted or under consideration within the last five years were reviewed for their potential to give rise to cumulative environmental effects. Earlier permissions were also considered where relevant.

The surrounding area contains a number of approved and proposed residential, commercial, civic and public transport developments, particularly within Tallaght Town Centre and along Whitestown Way. The principal developments identified are summarised in Table 2.2 below.

Reg. Ref.	Location	Development Description	Decision / Outcome
LRD26A/0002W	Whitestown Way, Tallaght	Mixed-use development comprising 169 residential units, two commercial units, a crèche and associated works.	Final Grant, 1 September 2026.

LRD25A/0009W	Belgard Square East, Tallaght	Mixed-use development comprising 199 residential units, commercial and retail uses, a crèche and associated works.	Granted by SDCC, 21 January 2026. Granted with conditions by ACP (Ref. 324080), 27 May 2026.
SD188/0008	Lands adjoining Tallaght Stadium, Whitestown Way	Part 8 development comprising 81 residential units for older persons and associated facilities, known as The Weir.	Part 8 approved, 10 December 2018. Development completed in 2024.
SD218/0009	Tallaght Town Centre	Part 8 development comprising a new public square adjoining the Tallaght Luas stop and public realm improvements around Rua Red and the Civic Theatre.	Part 8 approved, 11 October 2023.
SD238/0004	Old Blessington Road, Tallaght	Part 8 development comprising a new two-storey Heritage Centre of approximately 870 sq.m and associated public realm works.	Part 8 approved, 9 October 2023.
SD25A/0196W	East Car Park, The Square Shopping Centre	Temporary ice rink for up to three months annually between 2025 and 2029, including temporary structures and associated works.	Final Grant, 24 November 2025.
PT8SD331	Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght	Part 8 development comprising a synthetic turf bowling green and associated works.	Part 8 approved, 9 February 2026.
PT8SD484	Tallaght Village	Further Part 8 proposal for public realm enhancements, pedestrian and cycling improvements, traffic management measures and associated works.	Public consultation commenced 10 November 2026. Decision pending.
ABP-316828-23	Tallaght/Clondalkin to City Centre	BusConnects Core Bus Corridor Scheme, including public transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure improvements.	Approved with conditions by An Bord Pleanála, 17 October 2024.

Table 2.2: Planning History of Adjacent and Nearby Sites.

The principal potential cumulative impacts relate to construction traffic, noise and dust where development programmes overlap, together with traffic and pedestrian movements associated with the proposed events. The completed residential development at The Weir is also relevant as an established noise-sensitive use adjoining the stadium.

The proposed events would be limited to a maximum of five per calendar year, with permanent construction works restricted to the widening of the four existing pitch-access gates. Event scheduling and event-specific management arrangements would have regard to existing sporting fixtures, other large-scale events, surrounding development activity and any changes to transport infrastructure, particularly in relation to traffic, pedestrian dispersal, parking, noise, servicing and emergency service provision.

Having regard to the limited permanent works, the temporary and intermittent nature of the proposed event use and the findings of the supporting technical assessments, significant cumulative environmental effects are not anticipated, subject to the implementation of the relevant event-management measures. The potential for cumulative impacts is considered further in Section 6.6 of this report.

3.0 EIA SCREENING

3.1 Overview

The purpose of EIA screening is to determine whether the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to its nature, scale, location and potential environmental impacts, and whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is therefore required. Screening is defined in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports as:

> *"The process of assessing the requirement for a project to be subject to Impact Assessment based on project type and scale, as well as the significance or environmental sensitivity of the receiving environment. (EPA, May 2022)"*

3.2 Legislative Requirements for an EIA

Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (together, the EIA Directive)) was enacted as a means to assess the effects of projects on the environment, and to properly ensure that any potential significant effects are assessed before a project proceeds. Annex I of the EIA Directive defines mandatory projects that require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (formerly EIS) and Annex II of the EIA Directive lists projects which do not necessarily have significant effects but can be subject to case-by-case analysis or thresholds to be determined by member states. Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, provides the legislative basis for mandatory EIA. It states the following:

> *"An environmental impact assessment shall be carried out by the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, in respect of an application for consent for proposed development where either —*
>
> *(a) the proposed development would be of a class specified in —*
>
> *(i) Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, and either —*
>
> > *(I) such development [would equal or exceed, as the case may be,] any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or*
> >
> > *(II) no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned,*
>
> *or*
>
> *(ii) Part 2 [(other than subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2)] of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and either —*

(I) such development [would equal or exceed, as the case may be,] any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, or

(II) no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part in respect of the development concerned,

or

(b) (i) the proposed development would be of a class specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 but F594 [does not equal or exceed, as the case may be,] the relevant quantity, area or other limit specified in that Part, and

(ii) it is concluded, determined or decided, as the case may be, —

(I) by a planning authority, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by this Act or the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001),

(II) by the Board, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by this Act or those regulations,

(III) by a local authority in exercise of the powers conferred on it by regulation 120 of those regulations,

(IV) by a State authority, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by regulation 123A of those regulations,

(V) in accordance with section 13A of the Foreshore Act, by the appropriate Minister (within the meaning of that Act), or

(VI) by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred on him or her by section 8A of the Minerals Development Act 1940 , that the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment."

3.3 Screening Evaluation

3.3.1 Is the development a project?

The first step in screening is to examine whether the proposal is a project as understood by the EU Directive. For the purposes of the EU Directive, 'project' means:

- the execution of construction works or of other installations or schemes, or
- other interventions in the natural surroundings and landscape including those involving the extraction of mineral resources.

Having regard to the proposed permanent works, temporary installations and associated additional event use, the proposed development is considered to constitute a project for the purposes of the EIA Directive.

3.3.2 Is the development a project that requires a mandatory EIA?

The proposed development has been considered against the project classes and thresholds set out in Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 5 of the Regulations.

An EIA is mandatory under Section 172 of the Act where proposed development falls within a relevant project class and meets or exceeds the applicable statutory threshold, or where mandatory EIA applies without a specified threshold.

Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development, no relevant project class has been identified under Part 1 of Schedule 5.

The potentially relevant provisions of Part 2 of Schedule 5 are Class 10(b)(iv), relating to urban development, Class 13, relating to changes and extensions of existing development, and Class 15, relating to projects falling below the applicable statutory thresholds but which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

These provisions are considered further below.

3.3.3 Is the project above the threshold for EIA?

An EIAR is required to accompany an application for permission of a class set out in the Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Regulations which equals or exceeds, as the case may be, a limit, quantity or threshold set for that class of development. A development that does not exceed a limit, quantity or threshold set for that class of development in Schedule 5 of the Regulations is known as a 'sub-threshold development'.

The proposed development and its component parts have been considered against the relevant classes in Part 2 of Schedule 5. The most relevant project class is Class 10(b)(iv):

> *"10. Infrastructure projects –...*
>
> *(b)(iv) Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere; (In this paragraph, 'business district' means a district within a city or town in which the predominant land use is retail or commercial use)."*
>
> *15. Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.*

The proposed development principally comprises the additional use of an existing stadium, together with limited permanent works and associated temporary event infrastructure. No new stadium, substantial buildings or extension of the existing stadium grounds is proposed.

The subject site measures approximately 4.12 hectares (10.18 acres) and is located within the established built-up area of Tallaght, immediately south of the N81 and adjoining Sean Walsh Memorial Park.

The site is occupied by an established sporting and recreational facility and is zoned Objective OS under the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028. While located in proximity to Tallaght Town Centre, the site is situated within an area characterised by a mixture of recreational, residential, educational and other uses, rather than within a district predominantly comprising retail or commercial development.

Accordingly, insofar as the proposed development falls within the scope of Class 10(b)(iv), the relevant threshold is 10 hectares, applicable to other parts of a built-up area.

The proposed development falls below this threshold and does not trigger a requirement for mandatory EIA under Class 10(b)(iv).

Class 13 – Changes, Extensions, Development and Testing

The proposed development has also been considered having regard to Class 13 of Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Regulations, given that it involves an additional use of an existing stadium together with limited permanent alterations.

The original stadium application (Reg. Ref. S97A/0063) was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement, while subsequent Part 8 procedures have facilitated the completion and expansion of the stadium.

Class 13(a) relates to changes or extensions of development resulting in an increase in size greater than 25 per cent or an amount equal to 50 per cent of the appropriate threshold, whichever is greater. The increase in size is calculated in terms of the unit of measurement of the appropriate threshold.

The current proposal does not involve an extension of the existing stadium grounds or an increase in the land area occupied by the development. The permanent physical works are limited to the widening of four existing pitch-access gates, with the remaining development comprising additional event use and associated temporary infrastructure.

Having regard to the applicable unit of measurement under Class 10(b)(iv), namely land area, the proposed development would not result in an increase in size meeting the threshold for mandatory EIA under Class 13(a). Class 13(b), relating to the development and testing of new methods or products, is not applicable to the proposed development.

Having regard to Class 13(c), the localised removal of sections of the existing pitch-perimeter walls to facilitate gate widening is not considered likely to give rise to significant environmental effects, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.

Notwithstanding the absence of a requirement for mandatory EIA under these provisions, the potential environmental effects associated with the increased audience capacity, additional event use, temporary infrastructure and permanent works have been considered in the subsequent sections of this report.

3.3.4 Conclusion – Requirement for EIA

Having regard to the nature, scale and characteristics of the proposed development, and following consideration of the potentially relevant project classes and thresholds set out in Schedule 5 of the Regulations, no requirement for mandatory EIA has been identified.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a detailed assessment of the potential for significant environmental effects has been undertaken, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 and the information requirements of Schedule 7A of the Regulations.

The remainder of this report presents that assessment, including consideration of the characteristics of the proposed development, the environmental sensitivity of its location and the nature and characteristics of its potential impacts, to inform the competent authority's determination as to whether EIA is required.

4.0 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

This section addresses the characteristics of proposed development by describing the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works; and a description of the location of the proposed development with regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.

4.1 Size and Design of the Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of:

- Use of Tallaght Stadium for up to five outdoor concerts, musical performances and similar large-scale cultural and entertainment events involving amplified music in any calendar year.
- Provision for a maximum attendance of 22,000 persons per event, comprising seated spectators within the existing stands and standing spectators on the playing pitch.
- Continued use of the existing stadium infrastructure, including spectator stands, concourses, access and egress points, sanitary facilities and ancillary accommodation.
- Minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates, located at each corner of the playing pitch, to provide a clear width from 3 metres to 9 metres each, together with associated minor works.
- Temporary installation of staging, sound and lighting equipment, production facilities and associated technical infrastructure.
- Provision of temporary protective surfacing across the playing pitch, audience barriers, crowd-control infrastructure, queuing facilities and signage.
- Provision of temporary sanitary facilities, food and beverage concessions, merchandise facilities, medical provision and accessible viewing accommodation.
- Temporary servicing and operational arrangements, including production vehicle access, equipment storage, emergency access routes and coach and shuttle facilities.
- Event-specific arrangements for crowd management, traffic management, pedestrian dispersal, noise management, waste collection and post-event cleaning.
- Removal of temporary event infrastructure following each event and reinstatement of areas temporarily used for event operations.

The proposed development will be accommodated within the existing Tallaght Stadium and associated grounds, which measure approximately 4.2 hectares. The permanent works are limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates, with no substantial new buildings or extension of the existing stadium proposed.

The proposed event use has been developed having regard to the existing stadium layout, surrounding residential areas, transport infrastructure and adjoining recreational and open spaces. The temporary event infrastructure will be installed and removed for individual events, allowing the stadium to retain its primary sporting function. The potential environmental effects associated with the proposed additional event use are considered in the following sections of this report.

4.2 Cumulation with other existing and/or approved projects

This section considers the potential cumulative effects of the proposed development with other existing, approved and proposed developments in the surrounding area. Relevant developments include residential and mixed-use schemes, public realm improvements and transport infrastructure projects identified in Section 2.3.2.

The principal potential cumulative effects relate to traffic, pedestrian movements, noise and disturbance associated with the proposed events, together with temporary construction-related effects where development programmes overlap. The permanent works associated with the proposal are limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates, while the proposed event use would be restricted to a maximum of five events per calendar year.

The supporting Traffic and Transport Assessment, Concert Noise Assessment and Event Management Strategy identify measures to manage event-related traffic, pedestrian movement, noise and disturbance. These will be implemented through event-specific management arrangements, having regard to existing sporting fixtures, other large-scale events, surrounding development activity and the scheduling of concerts on consecutive or closely spaced dates.

Having regard to the limited permanent works, the temporary and intermittent nature of the proposed events and the proposed management measures, significant cumulative environmental effects are not anticipated. This is considered further in Section 6.6 of this report.

4.3 Nature of any associated demolition works

No demolition of buildings or substantial structures is proposed. The widening of four existing pitch-access gates will involve the localised removal of sections of the existing pitch-perimeter walls and associated minor construction works.

4.4 Use of natural resources (soil, water and biodiversity)

The proposed development has been considered in terms of its use of natural resources, including land, soil, water and biodiversity.

The permanent construction works will require limited quantities of concrete and associated construction materials for the widening of four existing pitch-access gates. During the operational phase, additional resources, including water, electricity and fuel, will be required to support individual events and associated temporary infrastructure.

Having regard to the use of an existing stadium, the limited permanent works and the maximum frequency of five events per calendar year, significant environmental effects arising from the consumption of natural resources are not anticipated.

Land and Soil

The proposed development will be accommodated within the existing Tallaght Stadium site. No additional land take or substantial groundworks are proposed. Any works involving the disturbance of land or soil will be limited to those necessary to facilitate the minor pitch-access gate widening.

Water Consumption

The proposed construction works will require minimal water consumption. During event operations, water requirements will be met through the existing stadium infrastructure and supplementary temporary facilities where required.

No substantial alterations to the existing water supply infrastructure are proposed.

Biodiversity Resources

The subject site comprises predominantly artificial hardstanding and managed amenity grassland, including the existing playing pitch. No vegetation clearance or substantial disturbance of habitats is proposed as part of the minor gate widening or temporary event arrangements.

The accompanying Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared by RSK identifies no likely significant effects on European sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

Having regard to the established nature of the stadium, limited permanent works and temporary event use, no substantial use or loss of biodiversity resources is anticipated.

4.5 Production of Waste

Construction Phase

During the construction phase, minimal waste generation is anticipated, as the permanent works are limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates. Small quantities of concrete, masonry and associated construction waste may arise and will be managed and disposed of in accordance with relevant waste management requirements.

The remaining temporary event infrastructure, including staging, barriers, lighting and production equipment, will generally comprise reusable structures which will be assembled and dismantled for individual events. Accordingly, no substantial construction waste is anticipated from these activities.

Operational Phase

The proposed development will give rise to waste and recycling during individual outdoor concerts and similar events. The typical waste types anticipated include:

- Dry Mixed Recyclables (DMR);
- Organic waste;
- Glass;
- Mixed Non-Recyclable (MNR) waste;
- Sanitary waste; and
- General waste, including food and beverage packaging, disposable containers, paper and cardboard.

Waste generated during events will be managed through the provision of appropriate bins and waste collection points within the stadium, particularly in audience areas and locations associated with food and beverage concessions. Waste will be segregated where practicable to maximise reuse, recycling and recovery. Glass containers will be excluded from audience areas in accordance with the Event Management Strategy.

The Event Management Strategy prepared by Safe Events Global provides for post-event cleaning within the stadium and surrounding areas, including adjoining streets, pedestrian routes and Sean Walsh Memorial Park. Litter collection will be undertaken following each event and completed before the following morning.

Waste collection, removal and disposal will be undertaken in accordance with relevant waste legislation and established waste management practices, with detailed arrangements incorporated into the Event Management Plan for each event.

Wastewater arising from temporary sanitary facilities and food and beverage concessions will be contained, collected and removed from the site for authorised disposal.

Having regard to the temporary nature of the proposed event use, the limited construction works and the waste management arrangements outlined above, significant effects on the environment arising from waste generation are not anticipated.

4.6 Pollution and Nuisances

There is potential for temporary noise, dust and disturbance associated with the proposed development. Construction activities will be limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates and are not

expected to give rise to substantial pollution or nuisance. Standard construction practices will be employed to minimise dust, noise and the risk of pollution during these works.

During the operational phase, the principal potential sources of nuisance will be amplified music, event-related traffic, crowd movements and the installation and removal of temporary event infrastructure.

The proposed development provides for a maximum of five outdoor concerts per calendar year, with attendance limited to 22,000 persons per event and a curfew of 22:45 hours for amplified concert music.

The Event Management Strategy prepared by Safe Events Global, together with the supporting Concert Noise Assessment and Traffic and Transport Assessment, identifies measures to manage potential nuisance, including:

- Appropriate orientation and positioning of sound systems to minimise noise impacts on surrounding residential properties.
- Monitoring of sound levels during events, with arrangements for corrective action where required.
- Management of temporary lighting to minimise light spill towards neighbouring properties and Sean Walsh Memorial Park.
- Management of event set-up and dismantling activities, including associated vehicle movements.
- Traffic management, crowd control and pedestrian dispersal arrangements to minimise disturbance within the surrounding area.
- Post-event cleaning and waste collection within the stadium and surrounding streets and public spaces.

The Concert Noise Assessment prepared by Wave Dynamics establishes a maximum Music Noise Level of 75 dB LAeq,15min for all five proposed events, together with a limit of 75 dB LAeq,5min for soundchecks and rehearsals. The assessment identifies operational restrictions and mitigation measures, including appropriate stage orientation and sound-system design, pre-event noise propagation testing, continuous noise monitoring, defined soundcheck periods, restrictions on overnight load-out activities and implementation of an event-specific Noise Management Plan. Subject to implementation of these measures, significant adverse noise effects are not anticipated. These matters are considered further in Section 6.1.5 of this report.

The Traffic and Transport Assessment prepared by Transport Insights identifies the potential for increased traffic and pedestrian activity during events, particularly at the N81/Whitestown Way/Cookstown Way junction. It recommends event-specific traffic management arrangements, including coordination with relevant transport authorities, public transport and shuttle provision, pedestrian management and measures to maintain emergency access.

Having regard to the limited construction works, the temporary and intermittent nature of the proposed event use and the findings of the supporting technical assessments, potential nuisance effects are expected to be localised and temporary. Subject to the implementation of the recommended noise, traffic and event-management measures, significant adverse environmental effects are not anticipated.

4.7 Risk of major accidents and/or disasters

The permanent construction works are minor in nature and will be undertaken in accordance with standard construction practices and applicable health and safety requirements.

During the operational phase, the principal potential risks relate to crowd safety, emergency access and evacuation, fire safety, temporary structures, electrical equipment and adverse weather conditions, including those associated with climate change.

The Event Management Strategy prepared by Safe Events Global assesses the proposed event capacity, crowd movement, emergency evacuation and access arrangements. The safe operation of individual events will be subject to compliance with the assessed capacity and safety requirements, including confirmation of the relevant evacuation assumptions, together with implementation of event-specific crowd management, emergency response and adverse weather procedures.

The accompanying Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment confirms that the application site is located within Flood Zone C, with Flood Zone B associated with the Tallaght Stream lying adjacent to, but outside, the southern site boundary. Flood-related risks are assessed as low or negligible. The flood risk management measures identified in Section 7 of that assessment will be incorporated into the Event Management Plan and Event Traffic Management Plan for each event.

Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development, the established use of Tallaght Stadium as a large spectator venue, the findings of the supporting assessments and the proposed safety and operational management arrangements, significant environmental effects arising from the risk of major accidents or disasters are not anticipated, subject to implementation of the identified measures.

4.8 Risks to human health

The characteristics of the proposed development, in terms of risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution), have been considered. The principal potential effects relate to noise, traffic and pedestrian movements associated with the proposed outdoor concerts and events.

The limited construction works are not expected to give rise to significant risks to human health. Standard construction practices will be employed to minimise temporary dust, noise and other disturbances.

During the operational phase, the Event Management Strategy prepared by Safe Events Global establishes arrangements for crowd management, access and egress, emergency response, medical provision, sanitation and waste management. These arrangements will be developed through Event Management Plans for individual events.

The potential effects of amplified music and event-related traffic on surrounding residential areas have been assessed separately by Wave Dynamics and Transport Insights, respectively. The Concert Noise Assessment

identifies noise limits, monitoring requirements and associated management measures to protect residential amenity. The Traffic and Transport Assessment identifies event-specific measures to manage traffic, pedestrian movements, public transport demand and emergency access.

Particular consideration has been given to the maintenance of emergency vehicle access on the surrounding road network and the protection of access to Tallaght University Hospital. These requirements will be incorporated into the event-specific traffic and emergency management arrangements.

Having regard to the limited nature of the permanent works, the temporary and infrequent event use and the proposed operational management arrangements, significant risks to human health are not anticipated, subject to implementation of the recommended noise, traffic and event-management measures.

5.0 Location of Project

This section considers the environmental sensitivity of the geographical areas likely to be affected by the proposed development, having regard to existing land use, natural resources and sensitive environmental receptors.

5.1 Existing and approved land use

The proposed development site is located at Tallaght Stadium, Tallaght, Dublin 24, within the established urban area of Tallaght and in close proximity to Tallaght Town Centre. The surrounding environment comprises a mix of recreational, commercial, educational and residential uses. The site is bounded by the N81 Tallaght Bypass to the north, Whitestown Way to the west, Sean Walsh Memorial Park and Old Bawn Community School to the east, and residential development and Council park facilities to the south. The wider area includes established residential neighbourhoods, retail and commercial developments, and public transport infrastructure.

The subject lands extend to approximately 4.2 hectares and comprise Tallaght Stadium and its associated grounds, including the existing car park. The lands are zoned Objective OS, 'To preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities', under the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028. The Development Plan also supports the use of suitable locations, including Tallaght Stadium, for concerts and events, subject to the protection of residential amenity and appropriate licensing arrangements.

The proposed development will facilitate additional outdoor concert and event use within the existing stadium grounds, together with the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates. The stadium will retain its principal sporting function, and no substantial change to the established land use or additional land take is proposed.

The proposed use is therefore compatible in principle with the established recreational function of the site. However, having regard to the surrounding residential areas, educational facilities and public open space, the potential effects of event-related noise, traffic and pedestrian movements require consideration as part of the environmental screening assessment.

5.2 Relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources

The area surrounding Tallaght Stadium includes natural resources associated with Sean Walsh Memorial Park, including land, soil, water and biodiversity. However, the subject site is an established sporting facility comprising predominantly developed and managed surfaces, with limited natural resources within the stadium grounds.

The proposed development involves minor construction works and the temporary use of existing stadium facilities for outdoor events. No additional land take or substantial excavation is proposed. Accordingly, the development is not expected to significantly affect the availability, quality or regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area.

5.3 Absorption capacity of the natural environment

The natural environment's ability to absorb the proposed development has been considered, particularly in relation to the following sensitive areas:

5.3.1 Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths

The proposed development is not located within any wetland, riparian area or river mouth. The Tallaght Stream (also known as Whitestown Stream) flows south of the site and continues through Sean Walsh Memorial Park. No works to the stream or associated riparian areas are proposed.

Potential effects on water quality associated with the proposed development will be addressed through appropriate construction, drainage, wastewater and event-management measures, as outlined in Sections 2.2 and 6.1.2 of this report.

The accompanying Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has separately considered potential pathways for indirect effects on European sites and concludes that likely significant effects on European sites are not anticipated.

5.3.2 Coastal zones and the marine environment

The site is located inland, away from any coastal zones or marine environments. Therefore, no direct impacts on these areas are anticipated.

5.3.3 Mountain and forest areas

The subject site is located within the established urban area of Tallaght and is not situated within any mountain or forest area. The proposed development will be accommodated within the existing stadium grounds and will not involve any works or land-use changes affecting mountain or forest areas.

5.3.4 Nature reserves and parks

The proposed development is not situated within a designated nature reserve. However, the stadium immediately adjoins Sean Walsh Memorial Park, which provides an important area of public open space and recreational amenity.

No permanent works or installation of temporary event infrastructure within the park are proposed. The potential effects of event-related noise, lighting, pedestrian movements and litter on the adjoining park have been considered as part of the environmental assessment and event management arrangements. The Event Management Strategy provides for temporary event lighting to be directed away from the park, appropriate

management of pedestrian routes where required, and post-event litter collection and reinstatement of affected areas.

Section 5.3.5 – Areas Classified or Protected under National Legislation; Natura 2000 Areas Designated by Member States Pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC

The proposed development is not located within or immediately adjoining any European site designated under the Habitats or Birds Directives.

The accompanying Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared by RSK considers potentially relevant European sites, including the Wicklow Mountains SAC and SPA, European sites associated with Dublin Bay and Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA. The assessment examines potential effects arising from hydrological connectivity, disturbance, noise, lighting and impacts on mobile species.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report concludes that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. This conclusion has been reached without reliance on measures intended to avoid or reduce effects on European sites.

5.3.6 Areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure

The nearby Dodder_040 river waterbody, which includes the Tallaght Stream, is classified as having Moderate status and is assessed as At Risk under the Water Framework Directive, with urban runoff identified as an existing pressure.

The proposed development involves no material changes to the existing drainage infrastructure and only minor permanent construction works. Appropriate measures will be implemented to prevent pollution of surface water, including the containment, collection and removal of wastewater from temporary event facilities and implementation of the relevant environmental management measures.

Potential effects on water quality are considered further in Section 6.1.2 of this report. Noise and traffic-related effects have been assessed through the supporting Concert Noise Assessment and Traffic and Transport Assessment, together with the proposed event management arrangements.

5.3.7 Densely populated areas

The proposed development is located within the established urban area of Tallaght, in proximity to Tallaght Town Centre and surrounding residential neighbourhoods, including Old Bawn and Springfield. The stadium adjoins existing commercial, educational and recreational uses and is served by established road and public transport infrastructure.

The proposed development will facilitate up to five outdoor concerts per calendar year, with a maximum attendance of 22,000 persons per event. Having regard to the surrounding urban environment, the principal potential effects relate to amplified music, event-related traffic, pedestrian movements and disturbance associated with spectator arrival and dispersal.

These matters have been assessed through the Concert Noise Assessment, Traffic and Transport Assessment and Event Management Strategy. The assessments identify measures for managing event-related noise, traffic and pedestrian movements, including noise monitoring, traffic controls and event-specific management arrangements. Having regard to the characteristics of the receiving environment, the limited frequency of the proposed events, the findings of the supporting technical assessments and the identified operational and environmental management measures, significant adverse environmental effects on the surrounding population are not anticipated, subject to implementation of these measures.

5.3.8 Landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance

The subject lands are located within the established urban area of Tallaght and are occupied by an existing stadium and associated facilities. The site is not located within an Architectural Conservation Area, and no known Protected Structures or Recorded Monuments are situated within the stadium grounds.

The proposed development will not introduce substantial new buildings or permanent changes to the existing landscape. Physical works will be limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates, while temporary event infrastructure will be dismantled and removed following individual events.

Having regard to the established character of the site and the limited nature of the permanent works, significant effects on landscape character, cultural heritage or archaeology are not anticipated.

6.0 Type and characteristics of the potential impact

This section considers the potential for significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, having regard to the criteria set out in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 of the Regulations, the characteristics of the proposed development and the environmental sensitivity of its location, as described in Sections 4 and 5 of this report.

The quality, magnitude and duration of potential impacts are defined in accordance with the criteria provided in the Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, May 2022).

6.1 The Nature of the Impact

The magnitude and spatial extent of potential environmental effects vary according to the nature of the environmental receptor and the activity concerned. Construction-related effects will be principally confined to the stadium grounds and their immediate surroundings. Operational noise, lighting and crowd-related effects will principally arise within the stadium and surrounding residential, commercial, educational and recreational areas, while transport-related effects will extend to the wider local road and public transport networks. These effects have been considered having regard to the assessed maximum audience attendance of 22,000 persons and the characteristics of the surrounding receiving environment.

The nature of impacts associated with the proposed development will primarily relate to the construction and operational phases. During the construction phase, impacts will be limited to temporary increases in noise, dust and general construction activity associated with the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates. These impacts will be short-term and localised and will be managed through standard construction practices.

The proposed development comprises the additional use of Tallaght Stadium for up to five outdoor concerts and similar events per calendar year, with a maximum attendance of 22,000 persons per event. During the operational phase, potential impacts will arise primarily from amplified music, increased traffic and pedestrian movements, temporary lighting, waste generation and activities associated with the installation and removal of temporary event infrastructure.

The proposed events will be managed in accordance with the Event Management Strategy prepared by Safe Events Global, supported by event-specific management arrangements. The Concert Noise Assessment prepared by Wave Dynamics and Traffic and Transport Assessment prepared by Transport Insights identify the principal potential effects on surrounding residential areas and the measures required to manage them.

Having regard to the foregoing, the proposed development is anticipated to have a positive, slight and long-term impact on population through the provision of additional cultural and recreational opportunities. Construction-related impacts are considered negative, not significant and short-term. Residual adverse operational effects are anticipated to be temporary and intermittent. Having regard to the findings of the supporting technical

assessments and subject to implementation of the identified environmental and operational management measures, significant adverse effects on population and human health are not anticipated.

6.1.1 Population and Human Health

The proposed development involves the additional use of Tallaght Stadium for up to five outdoor concerts and similar events per calendar year, with a maximum attendance of 22,000 persons per event. The stadium is located within an established urban area, with residential neighbourhoods and other sensitive receptors in the surrounding environment.

The potential impacts of the proposed development on population and human health during the construction phase are limited to short-term nuisances such as dust, noise and construction-related traffic. Given the minor nature of the proposed widening of four existing pitch-access gates, these impacts are anticipated to be negative, not significant and short-term. Standard construction practices will be employed to minimise disturbance.

During the operational phase, the proposed development will provide additional opportunities for cultural, recreational and entertainment activities within Tallaght, making greater use of an established stadium facility. The proposal also has the potential to support local businesses and economic activity associated with event attendance. These effects are considered to be positive, slight and long-term.

Potential negative impacts during the operational phase relate primarily to amplified music, event-related noise, traffic and pedestrian movements, and associated disturbance to surrounding residential areas. These impacts would be temporary and intermittent, arising during individual events and associated activities.

The Event Management Strategy prepared by Safe Events Global establishes arrangements for crowd management, spectator access and egress, emergency response, medical provision, sanitation, waste management and the protection of residential amenity.

The Concert Noise Assessment prepared by Wave Dynamics establishes noise limits and recommends sound-system design, continuous monitoring and event-specific noise management measures to control impacts on surrounding residential properties. The Traffic and Transport Assessment prepared by Transport Insights identifies measures to manage event-related traffic, pedestrian movements, public transport demand and emergency access through Event Management Plans and Event Traffic Management Plans for individual events.

Having regard to the foregoing, the proposed development is anticipated to have a positive, slight and long-term impact on population through the provision of additional cultural and recreational opportunities. Construction-related impacts are considered negative, not significant and short-term. Subject to implementation of the recommended management measures, residual adverse operational effects are anticipated to be negative, slight, temporary and intermittent, without giving rise to likely significant environmental effects.

6.1.2 Land, soils, geology, hydrogeology, hydrology

The proposed development will involve minimal groundworks, limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates and associated minor construction activities. No substantial excavation, land clearance or alteration of existing ground levels is proposed. The residual impact on land, soils, geology, hydrogeology and hydrology during the construction phase is considered to be negative, imperceptible and temporary.

During the operational phase, the proposed events will be accommodated within the existing stadium grounds, with no material alterations to the established surface water drainage infrastructure. Existing permanent sanitary facilities will continue to utilise the established foul drainage infrastructure. Wastewater arising from temporary sanitary facilities and food and beverage concessions will be contained, collected and removed from the site for authorised disposal.

Potential pollution associated with temporary power equipment, fuels, oils and servicing activities will be managed through appropriate containment, storage and spill prevention measures. Subject to implementation of these measures, significant adverse effects on land, soils, geology, hydrogeology and hydrology are not anticipated during the operational phase.

The accompanying Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment confirms that the stadium is located within Flood Zone C, with flood risks assessed as low or negligible. The proposed development will not increase impermeable surfaces or flood risk elsewhere. The assessment recommends event-specific flood risk management measures, including weather monitoring, maintenance of existing drainage infrastructure and appropriate emergency access arrangements.

The flood risk management measures identified in Section 7 of the accompanying Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment shall be incorporated into the Event Management Plan and Event Traffic Management Plan for each event, with responsibility for their implementation assigned to a nominated Event Safety Officer.

Having regard to the foregoing, significant effects on land, soils, geology, hydrogeology and hydrology are not anticipated during the construction or operational phase, subject to implementation of the recommended management measures.

6.1.3 Biodiversity

The subject site comprises an established and intensively managed stadium, with habitats principally comprising buildings and artificial hardstanding and improved amenity grassland associated with the playing pitch.

The accompanying Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared by RSK provides information on the ecological characteristics of the site and surrounding area, including habitats, birds, bats and other protected species.

Permanent construction works will be limited to the widening of four existing pitch-access gates. No removal of trees, hedgerows or other established vegetation is proposed. Prior to undertaking the permanent works, the potential for disturbance to protected species, including nesting birds, will be reviewed, with appropriate measures implemented where necessary to ensure compliance with relevant wildlife legislation.

During the operational phase, potential effects on biodiversity may arise from temporary lighting, amplified music, increased human activity, litter and associated disturbance. Sean Walsh Memorial Park and the Tallaght Stream provide ecological resources within the surrounding area, including potential habitat for birds and foraging and commuting bats.

The proposed event footprint will be contained within the existing stadium grounds. Temporary event lighting will be directed away from Sean Walsh Memorial Park, with unnecessary light spill onto adjoining vegetation and watercourses minimised. Any use of existing pedestrian routes through the park will be appropriately managed, and post-event litter clearance will be undertaken in accordance with the Event Management Strategy.

Having regard to the established nature of the stadium, its existing lighting and sporting activity, the limited permanent works and the restriction of the proposed additional use to a maximum of five events per calendar year, substantial habitat loss or permanent ecological effects are not anticipated.
The potential for significant effects on European sites has been considered separately in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, which concludes that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on any European site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

Subject to implementation of the identified lighting, waste management and operational controls, and appropriate protection of any protected species potentially affected by the permanent works, significant effects on biodiversity are not anticipated.

6.1.4 Air Quality and Climate

Construction Phase
During the construction phase, traffic and machinery associated with the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates will be the principal potential sources of dust and greenhouse gas emissions. However, given the limited scale and duration of these works, the overall impact on air quality and climate is anticipated to be minimal.

Standard construction practices will be employed to minimise emissions, including appropriate management of construction vehicles, limiting engine idling and controlling dust generation where required.

The residual impact on air quality and climate during the construction phase is considered to be negative, imperceptible and temporary.

Operational Phase

During the operational phase, potential emissions will arise primarily from spectator travel, production vehicles, deliveries and temporary event equipment, including generators where required. These activities will be limited to a maximum of five events per calendar year and associated set-up and dismantling periods.

The proposed development will utilise the existing stadium infrastructure and will not introduce substantial new permanent energy-consuming facilities. The Traffic and Transport Assessment prepared by Transport Insights recommends event-specific transport management measures, including encouraging public transport, walking and cycling, providing supplementary shuttle and coach services where required, and managing vehicle movements to minimise impacts on the surrounding road network.

The residual impact on air quality during the operational phase is considered to be negative, slight and intermittent.

Having regard to the limited construction works, infrequent nature of the proposed events, use of existing infrastructure and recommended transport management measures, significant effects on air quality and climate are not anticipated. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with event-related travel and operations will arise, but their contribution is expected to be limited by the frequency of events and the proposed transport arrangements.

6.1.5 Noise and Vibration

Construction Phase
During the construction phase, noise and vibration will be limited to activities associated with the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates. Given the minor nature and limited duration of these works, significant noise or vibration effects are not anticipated. Standard construction practices will be employed to minimise disturbance to surrounding properties.

The residual impact on noise and vibration during the construction phase is considered to be negative, not significant and short-term.

Operational Phase
During the operational phase, the principal potential noise impacts will arise from amplified music, soundchecks, crowd activity, spectator dispersal, servicing and the installation and removal of temporary event infrastructure. Tallaght Stadium is located in proximity to existing noise-sensitive premises, particularly residential apartments and the Maldron Hotel along Whitestown Way, residential properties to the south of the stadium car park and Old Bawn Community School to the east.

A Concert Noise Assessment has been prepared by Wave Dynamics, informed by baseline noise surveys undertaken between 18 and 29 September 2026.

The assessment establishes a maximum Music Noise Level of 75 dB LAeq,15min at 1 metre from the façade of noise-sensitive premises for all five events in any calendar year. The assessment considers the provisions of the Noise Council Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts, including the lower background-

related criteria recommended for the fourth and fifth events, and provides justification for adopting a consistent noise limit for all five events, having regard to established Irish practice, the limited event frequency and the proposed operational controls.

The adopted noise criterion represents an upper limit rather than a target operating level, with music noise at surrounding sensitive receptors to be minimised as far as reasonably practicable.

The representative background noise levels recorded at monitoring locations L1 and L2 were 56 dB LA90 and 54 dB LA90, respectively. Application of the background-related criteria in the Code of Practice would result in limits of 71 dB and 69 dB LAeq,15min at these locations for the fourth and fifth events. The Concert Noise Assessment considers that these lower limits are unlikely to be reasonably achievable for stadium-scale concerts providing appropriate audience coverage.

The principal noise management measures identified in the Concert Noise Assessment include:

- Location of the representative stage in front of the South Stand, facing north, with appropriate directional sound-system design.
- Pre-event noise propagation testing and establishment of sound-system control limits.
- Continuous noise monitoring and implementation of corrective measures where required.
- A maximum noise level of 75 dB LAeq,5min for soundchecks and rehearsals, undertaken at agreed times between 10:00 and 18:00.
- Scheduling of concerts and soundchecks to avoid periods when Old Bawn Community School is in use.
- A strict curfew of 22:45 for amplified concert music.
- Controls on recorded music during audience dispersal, with such music not audible inside noise-sensitive premises after 23:00 with windows open for ventilation.
- Demonstration of operational necessity for overnight load-out activities and implementation of an appropriate load-out noise method statement.
- Advance notification to residents, complaints management and post-event noise reporting.

Each event will operate in accordance with an event-specific Noise Management Plan incorporating the requirements of the Concert Noise Assessment. The Noise Management Plan shall be submitted to South Dublin County Council at least six weeks before each event. No concert event shall proceed until the Noise Management Plan has been reviewed and accepted by South Dublin County Council.

It is acknowledged that the proposed events will introduce temporary and potentially noticeable changes to the existing noise environment. However, having regard to the maximum frequency of five events per calendar year, the defined music curfew, the proposed noise limits and the findings of the Concert Noise Assessment, significant adverse environmental effects arising from noise and vibration are not anticipated, subject to implementation of the identified noise management and mitigation measures.

6.1.6 Landscape and Visual Impact

Construction Phase
The proposed construction works will be limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates within Tallaght Stadium. Given the minor nature of these works and their location within the existing stadium grounds, no material changes to the surrounding landscape character or visual amenity are anticipated.

The residual landscape and visual impact during construction is considered to be **negative, imperceptible and temporary**.

Operational Phase

The proposed development will be accommodated within the existing Tallaght Stadium, which forms part of the established urban and recreational landscape of Tallaght. No substantial new buildings, alterations to the stadium's overall height or permanent changes to the surrounding landscape are proposed.

Temporary event infrastructure, including staging, lighting and production equipment, will be installed for individual events and removed thereafter. These structures may be visible from adjoining roads, residential properties and public open spaces, including Sean Walsh Memorial Park. However, their presence will be temporary and limited to a maximum of five events per calendar year and associated set-up and dismantling periods.

The residual landscape and visual impact during the operational phase is anticipated to be **negative, slight and intermittent**, with no material long-term alteration to the established landscape character.

Having regard to the existing stadium setting, the limited permanent works and the temporary nature of the proposed event infrastructure, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development in respect of landscape and visual impacts.

6.1.7 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

There are no known Recorded Monuments or Protected Structures within the subject site. The previous EIA Screening Report prepared for the North Stand development in 2020 identified the nearest historic features as being associated with Tallaght Village.

The proposed development will involve minor construction works associated with the widening of four existing pitch-access gates. No substantial excavation or ground disturbance is proposed. The potential impact on cultural heritage and archaeology during the construction phase is therefore considered to be **negative, imperceptible and temporary**.

During the operational phase, the proposed events will be accommodated within the existing stadium, with no permanent alterations to features of archaeological or cultural heritage significance. The residual impact is considered to be **neutral and imperceptible**.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development in respect of cultural heritage and archaeology during the construction or operational phase.

6.1.8 Material Assets

The proposed development will make use of the existing infrastructure and services at Tallaght Stadium, including water supply, foul drainage, electricity and associated facilities. No substantial alterations or upgrades to existing utility infrastructure are proposed.

During the construction phase, works will be limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates. Existing services will be identified and protected where necessary to avoid damage or disruption during construction. Given the limited nature of these works, the residual impact on material assets during construction is considered to be **negative, imperceptible and temporary**.

During the operational phase, the proposed events will utilise the existing stadium infrastructure, supplemented by temporary facilities and services where required. Temporary event equipment and associated infrastructure will be removed following each event, with no material permanent changes to existing services anticipated.
The residual impact on material assets during the operational phase is considered to be **neutral, imperceptible and intermittent**.

Potential effects on wider material assets, including the surrounding road network, public transport infrastructure, parking facilities and access to Tallaght University Hospital, are considered in Section 6.1.9 of this report. Having regard to the limited permanent works, the use of existing infrastructure and the proposed operational management measures, significant adverse effects on material assets are not anticipated.

6.1.9 Traffic & Transport

During the construction phase, traffic movements will be limited to the delivery of materials, equipment and personnel associated with the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates. Given the minor nature of these works, construction-related traffic volumes are expected to be low. The residual impact on traffic and transport during construction is considered to be negative, slight and short-term.

During the operational phase, the proposed development will generate additional traffic and pedestrian movements associated with up to five outdoor concerts per calendar year, with a maximum attendance of 22,000

persons per event. Additional vehicle movements will also arise during the installation and removal of temporary event infrastructure.

The Traffic and Transport Assessment prepared by Transport Insights considers the potential impacts on the surrounding road network, public transport services, parking, pedestrian movement and event-related access and dispersal arrangements. The assessment identifies that additional vehicular movements can generally be accommodated on the surrounding road network, subject to appropriate event-specific traffic management.

The assessment identifies a shortfall in existing scheduled public transport capacity relative to the forecast demand associated with the representative 22,000-person event, with further constraints arising following the reduction in service frequency after 23:00.
Supplementary shuttle bus and private coach services, together with enhanced scheduled public transport services where agreed with the relevant operators, will therefore be required to address anticipated demand. Event-specific transport arrangements shall demonstrate sufficient transport capacity, with event capacities, ticket allocations and travel demand management measures adjusted where necessary.

General public parking will not be provided within the stadium grounds during events. The existing car park will principally accommodate temporary event infrastructure and operational facilities, with limited pre-booked accessible parking provided. Event-specific transport arrangements will address the availability of off-site parking, preventative measures to manage residential overspill parking and supplementary cycle-parking provision.

The Event Management Strategy prepared by Safe Events Global establishes an operational framework for managing spectator movements, including controlled pedestrian dispersal, temporary traffic management and managed crossings at the N81/Whitestown Way/Cookstown Way junction. Event-specific Event Management Plans and Event Traffic Management Plans will be required, informed by consultation with An Garda Síochána, the National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and relevant transport operators.

The assessed crowd dispersal strategy relies on appropriate provision for shuttle bus and coach operations to the south of the N81 junction, together with controlled pedestrian dispersal and the maintenance of emergency vehicle access. The traffic and pedestrian management arrangements will be reviewed for events operating at different times from the representative event scenario.

Residual adverse effects on traffic and transport during the operational phase are anticipated to be temporary and intermittent, with the extent of such effects dependent on the characteristics of individual events and the implementation of the identified transport and crowd management measures.

Having regard to the findings of the Traffic and Transport Assessment, the established transport infrastructure serving Tallaght Stadium, the limited frequency of the proposed events and the identified traffic and transport management measures, significant environmental effects associated with traffic and transport are not anticipated, subject to the implementation of appropriate event-specific transport provision, pedestrian management and traffic controls.

6.1.10 Assessment of potential impacts from interactions

The interaction of the potential environmental impacts identified above has been considered having regard to the limited construction works and proposed event use. During construction, potential interactions between noise, dust and traffic are expected to be negative, not significant and short-term.

During the operational phase, the principal potential interactions relate to amplified music, event-related traffic, pedestrian movements and their combined effects on surrounding residential amenity. These effects would be negative, temporary and intermittent, occurring during individual events and associated activities.

The Event Management Strategy prepared by Safe Events Global provides a framework for managing these effects, supported by the Concert Noise Assessment prepared by Wave Dynamics and Traffic and Transport Assessment prepared by Transport Insights. The recommended measures include noise monitoring and control, managed pedestrian dispersal, temporary traffic management and event-specific transport arrangements.

Having regard to the findings of the supporting assessments, the limited frequency of events and the identified environmental management measures, residual interacting effects are anticipated to be negative, temporary and intermittent. Subject to implementation of these measures, significant environmental effects arising from interactions between environmental factors are not anticipated.

6.1.11 Assessment of potential for cumulative impacts

Cumulative impacts are those impacts that relate to incremental or additive impacts of the proposed development in addition to historical, present or foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts can occur through persistent additions or losses of the same materials or resources, or through the combined effects of two or more activities.
As identified in Section 2.3.2, the surrounding area includes a number of existing, approved and proposed residential, commercial, civic and transport developments. The principal potential cumulative impacts relate to construction traffic, noise and dust where development programmes overlap, together with additional traffic, pedestrian movements and noise associated with individual events. The completed residential development at The Weir is also relevant as an established noise-sensitive use adjoining the stadium.

Given the limited nature of the permanent works, cumulative construction impacts are anticipated to be negative, not significant and short-term. Operational impacts would be temporary and intermittent, arising during a maximum of five events per calendar year.

The Event Management Strategy, Concert Noise Assessment and Traffic and Transport Assessment establish measures to manage event-related effects, including noise control, traffic management and pedestrian dispersal. Event-specific arrangements will take account of other activities and developments within the surrounding area.

Having regard to the limited construction works, infrequent nature of the proposed events and findings of the supporting technical assessments, residual cumulative operational impacts are anticipated to be negative, slight, temporary and intermittent. Significant cumulative environmental effects are not anticipated, subject to implementation of the recommended event management measures.

6.2 Transboundary nature of the impact

The proposed development will not give rise to transboundary impacts. Potential environmental effects associated with the construction works and proposed outdoor events will be localised to Tallaght Stadium and its surrounding area. No effects extending beyond Ireland are anticipated.

Accordingly, transboundary impacts are considered to be **neutral and imperceptible**.

6.3 Intensity and complexity of the impact

The intensity of the impact during the construction phase is low. The proposed works are limited to the minor widening of four existing pitch-access gates and do not involve large-scale or complex construction processes that could lead to significant environmental concerns.

During the operational phase, the intensity of potential impacts may be moderate during individual events, primarily due to amplified music, spectator movements and event-related traffic. These impacts will be temporary and intermittent, with events limited to a maximum of five per calendar year.

The Concert Noise Assessment and Traffic and Transport Assessment identify measures to manage the principal operational effects, including noise control, pedestrian dispersal and transport arrangements. Having regard to the findings of these assessments and subject to implementation of the identified measures through the Event Management Strategy and event-specific management plans, significant residual environmental effects are not anticipated.

6.4 Probability of the impact

The probability of significant adverse impacts during the construction phase is low. The proposed works are minor in nature and confined to the existing stadium grounds. Potential impacts such as temporary noise, dust and construction-related traffic are expected to be minimal and manageable.

During the operational phase, temporary impacts associated with amplified music, spectator movements and event-related traffic are expected to occur during individual events. These impacts will be negative, temporary and intermittent, with events limited to a maximum of five per calendar year.

Having regard to the findings of the Concert Noise Assessment and Traffic and Transport Assessment, the probability of significant adverse operational effects is considered low, subject to the implementation of the recommended noise, traffic and event management measures.

6.5 Expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact

- **Onset:** Construction-related impacts will arise during the minor widening of the four existing pitch-access gates. Operational impacts will occur during individual events and associated set-up and dismantling activities.
- **Duration:** Operational impacts will arise during individual events and their associated preparation and dismantling periods. The Event Management Strategy anticipates an indicative build period of three to five days and a dismantling period of two to four days, depending on the production requirements of individual events. These periods may overlap where events are closely scheduled.
- **Frequency:** Construction impacts will occur during the initial works and will not be recurring. Operational impacts will be intermittent, with the proposed development limited to a maximum of five outdoor concerts per calendar year.
- **Reversibility:** Construction-related disturbances will cease following completion of the works. Operational impacts will be reversible, with temporary event infrastructure dismantled and removed following each event, allowing the stadium to return to its established sporting use.

Having regard to the foregoing, the findings of the supporting technical assessments and the identified environmental management measures, the potential environmental effects are anticipated to be principally temporary, intermittent and reversible. Significant residual environmental effects are not anticipated.

6.6 Cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects

The proposed development is located within the established urban area of Tallaght, surrounded by existing residential, commercial and recreational uses. There is potential for cumulative impacts relating to traffic, pedestrian movements and noise, particularly where other developments or large-scale activities occur within the surrounding area at the same time as the proposed events.

As outlined in Section 2.3.2, nearby developments include approved mixed-use schemes at Whitestown Way (LRD26A/0002W) and Belgard Square East (LRD25A/0009W), public realm improvements within Tallaght Town Centre and the approved BusConnects Core Bus Corridor Scheme. The completed residential development at The Weir also forms part of the existing receiving environment and represents a nearby noise-sensitive use.

Potential cumulative impacts may arise where construction activities overlap with the proposed events, particularly in relation to traffic, noise, dust and pedestrian access. Other temporary activities within the surrounding area, including the permitted seasonal ice rink at The Square Shopping Centre, may also contribute to local traffic and parking demand where operating concurrently.

Given the limited construction works and the restriction of the proposed event use to a maximum of five events per calendar year, cumulative impacts are expected to be negative, temporary and intermittent. The Traffic and Transport Assessment and Concert Noise Assessment identify measures to manage the principal operational effects, while event-specific management arrangements will take account of other developments and activities occurring within the surrounding area.

Potential cumulative effects may also arise in conjunction with existing sporting fixtures at Tallaght Stadium, other major events within the wider area and the scheduling of concerts on consecutive or closely spaced dates. Event scheduling and event-specific management arrangements will have regard to these activities, including their implications for residential amenity, transport capacity, parking, emergency service resources and the duration of event-related disturbance.

Having regard to the foregoing, significant cumulative environmental effects are not anticipated, subject to implementation of the recommended noise, traffic and event management measures.

6.7 Possibility of effectively reducing the impact

The proposed development incorporates defined operational parameters, project features and environmental management measures to avoid or prevent significant adverse environmental effects.

The principal measures considered in reaching the conclusions of this EIA Screening Report are summarised in Table 6.1 below. These measures shall be implemented in conjunction with the detailed requirements of the accompanying Event Management Strategy, Concert Noise Assessment, Traffic and Transport Assessment and Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment.

Environmental Consideration	Project Features and Management Measures
Event frequency and capacity	A maximum of five outdoor concerts, musical performances and similar cultural and entertainment events in any calendar year, with a maximum audience attendance of 22,000 persons per event, subject to assessed safety requirements and available transport capacity.
Construction management	Implementation of appropriate measures to manage construction-related noise, dust, waste, traffic and potential pollution during the widening of the four existing pitch-access gates.
Event management	Implementation of the requirements of the Event Management Strategy through detailed event-specific management plans.
Music curfew	Amplified concert music shall cease no later than 22:45.
Noise limits	A maximum Music Noise Level of 75 dB LAeq,15min for concert events and 75 dB LAeq,5min for soundchecks and rehearsals, in accordance with the Concert Noise Assessment.
Soundchecks and rehearsals	Soundchecks and rehearsals shall take place at agreed times between 10:00 and 18:00. Concerts and soundchecks shall not coincide with periods when Old Bawn Community School is in use.

Noise Management Plan	Submission of an event-specific Noise Management Plan to SDCC at least six weeks before each event. No concert event shall proceed until the plan has been reviewed and accepted by SDCC.
Traffic and transport	Implementation of the recommendations set out in the Traffic and Transport Assessment through event-specific transport management arrangements.
Public transport capacity	Confirmation of adequate transport provision, including supplementary shuttle bus and private coach services where required. Event capacities, ticket allocations and travel demand management measures shall be adjusted where necessary to ensure safe and effective operation of the transport network.
Crowd management	Implementation of the assessed crowd management, access, egress, evacuation and pedestrian dispersal arrangements identified in the Event Management Strategy.
Emergency access	Maintenance of emergency vehicle access and protection of access to Tallaght University Hospital.
Flood risk	Implementation of the flood risk management measures identified in the Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, with responsibility assigned to a nominated Event Safety Officer.
Biodiversity	Protection of relevant ecological receptors during permanent works and management of temporary event lighting to minimise disturbance to adjoining habitats, vegetation and watercourses.
Pollution prevention	Appropriate storage and containment of fuels, oils and other potentially polluting substances associated with event equipment and servicing activities.
Wastewater	Containment, collection and removal of wastewater arising from temporary sanitary facilities and food and beverage concessions for authorised disposal, without connection to the existing drainage network.
Waste management	Provision of appropriate waste collection and segregation facilities, authorised waste removal and post-event cleaning.
Public open space	Containment of temporary event infrastructure within the existing stadium grounds, appropriate management of pedestrian routes and post-event cleaning of surrounding streets and Sean Walsh Memorial Park.
Community liaison	Advance notification to surrounding residents and the Maldron Hotel operator, provision of a staffed complaints line and implementation of the complaints management procedures identified in the Concert Noise Assessment.
Monitoring and review	Post-event monitoring, reporting and review of operational arrangements, including submission of a post-event noise report to SDCC within 14 days of each event.

Table 6.1: Principal Development Parameters and Environmental Management Measures

The detailed implementation of these measures will be addressed through the relevant construction and event-specific management arrangements. Having regard to the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, the findings of the supporting specialist assessments and the implementation of the identified project features and environmental management measures, significant residual environmental effects are not anticipated.

7.0 Findings and Conclusions

This EIA Screening Report has been prepared having regard to Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The proposed development has been considered against the potentially relevant project classes and thresholds set out in Schedule 5 of the Regulations, including Class 10(b)(iv), relating to urban development, and Class 13, relating to changes and extensions of existing development. Having regard to the nature, scale and characteristics of the proposed development, no requirement for mandatory EIA has been identified.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a detailed assessment of the potential for significant environmental effects has been undertaken having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 and the information requirements of Schedule 7A of the Regulations.

The assessment has considered the characteristics of the proposed development, the environmental sensitivity of its location and the nature, magnitude, spatial extent, duration, frequency, reversibility and potential cumulative effects of the development. The findings have been informed by the accompanying Event Management Strategy, Traffic and Transport Assessment, Concert Noise Assessment, Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report.

The principal potential adverse environmental effects relate to noise, traffic and transport, pedestrian movements and disturbance associated with individual events and their preparation and dismantling. These effects are anticipated to be principally temporary and intermittent.

The proposed development incorporates defined operational parameters, project features and environmental management measures to avoid or prevent significant adverse environmental effects. These include limits on event frequency and audience attendance, a defined music curfew, noise limits and monitoring requirements, event-specific traffic and transport arrangements, crowd management and emergency access provisions, flood risk management measures and measures to protect residential amenity, biodiversity, water quality and adjoining public open space.

The principal development parameters and environmental management measures relied upon in reaching the screening conclusion are set out in Section 6.7 of this report and further detailed in the accompanying specialist assessments.

Having regard to the foregoing, including the nature, scale and location of the proposed development, the findings of the supporting specialist assessments and the implementation of the identified environmental management measures, it is concluded, having regard to Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Article 120 and Schedules 5, 7 and 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on the environment, either individually or cumulatively with other existing or approved developments.

Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is not necessary.

This report has been prepared to inform South Dublin County Council, as the competent authority, in making its statutory determination in respect of the requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment.

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