



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport



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Ms Nicola Radley
Cork County Council
County Hall
Cork

Our Ref: SR/17/19705



13 November 2017

Dear Ms Radley

I refer to your letter of 25 October 2017 regarding a recent resolution of Cork County Council calling for Ireland to ratify the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWMC).

As you may know, the BWMC is an international convention stemming from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which only entered into force on 8 September 2017. I wish to inform you that officials in the Department are currently in the process of preparing national legislation to give effect to the BWMC.

However, at a meeting of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in July 2017, a number of amendments to the BWMC were proposed for adoption at their next meeting scheduled to be held in April 2018. These proposed amendments are relatively complex in nature and naturally could affect the draft national legislation which cannot be finalised until it is known whether or not the proposed amendments to the BWMC are officially adopted.

Again, as you may know, national legislation must be in place before a state can ratify an international convention. Therefore, in the first instance, we must await the outcome of the MEPC meeting scheduled for April 2018 before we are in a position to finalise our own national legislation with a view to formally ratifying the BWMC in the second instance. I wish to assure you that officials in the Department are cognizant of the importance of ratifying

the BWMC and will take all necessary steps when they are in a position to do so with the intention of fulfilling Ireland's international obligations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Chris Smith

Private Secretary to Minister Ross

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015
(details available on www.lobbying.ie)*