

February 17th, 2017

Dear Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to wish you well and thank you for taking the time to read my submission to your review committee which I will keep brief and to the point.

By way of introduction, I am the Sales Manager for Kingspan Aerobord located in Askeaton, Co. Limerick. We currently employ 26 people, of which 12 would be employed directly in the manufacture of fish boxes.

We currently find ourselves in a situation where much high volume manufacturers have left Ireland over the last 10 years and we are now concentrating our efforts on the food business and specifically the fish farming industry, an industry we have served for the past 25 years.

We believe that this industry offers us an excellent opportunity for growth of our business over the coming years provided new licences are issued. If these licences were granted this would result in us making significant capital investment in our plant and increasing the workforce substantially as well as protecting the existing jobs. In an increasingly global environment for jobs and investment we feel that developing this resource on our door-step is critical to future development of our economy, especially in areas of the country where investment has historically been neglected or ignored over the years.

I would therefore ask your committee to examine and resolve whatever Logjam has developed in the Irish Aquaculture Regulatory System. We are all well aware of the ambitious targets which Government has set itself in terms of the Blue Economy, yet we seem to be a very long way from delivering on these.

Yours Sincerely,

John Blessing

John Blessing
Sales Manager

AEROBORD, ASKEATON

Kingspan[®]
