

## **Consideration of the requirement to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020 for Ireland**

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In accordance with the relevant EU Directives in respect of a requirement (or otherwise) to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment in conjunction with proposed ESF Operational Programmes, the ESF Managing Authority instructed Fitzpatrick Associates to undertake a 'Determination of the need for a strategic environmental assessment of the European Social Fund (ESF) Operational Programme 2014-2020 within the Republic of Ireland', The 'Determination' undertaken comprises a screening statement to establish if an SEA is required and the recommendation which emerged was that an SEA is not required for the draft Programme. In accordance with the associated 'Screening Decision' and for the avoidance of any doubt in relation to the conclusions reached therein, the ESF Managing Authority sought the formal advice of the following bodies:

- The Environmental Protection Agency
- The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and
- The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

No formal advice was received.

### **Decision:**

In view of the foregoing it is the decision of the ESF Managing Authority that the draft Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020 does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment Report under the terms of the SEA Directive.