



Project Title: Turasóireacht Mara Outdoor

Activity Development

<u>Request for Tenders</u>	
Tender Title	Turasóireacht Mara Outdoor Activity Development
Contracting Authority	Comhar Chuigéal (Leitir Mealláin) Teoranta
Procedure	Open
Issue Date	12 th August 2026
Query Deadline Date	21 st August 2026 at 14:00
Closing Date / Time for receipt of tenders	05 th September 2026 at 14:00
Instructions for return of tenders	Completed tender documents to be submitted <u>via Etenders only</u> Tender Submissions must be submitted in PDF format and must complete a separate pricing document
Please note that the issuing of a contract relating to this request for tender is subject to the awarding of funding	

Background and Context

Comhar Chuigéal, a community-based cooperative in Letter Mullen, Co. Galway, operating a seasonal water sports and marine activity centre called Turasóireacht Mara. They provide accessible water-based activities, training, and equipment hire for both locals and visitors, supporting physical wellbeing, tourism, and community engagement.

The cooperative is volunteer-led with a small team of seasonal staff and is committed to promoting safe, inclusive, and environmentally responsible use of the marine environment. It also plays a key role in sustaining local coastal culture and contributing to the rural economy through tourism and skills development.

The organisation operates on a not-for-profit basis, reinvesting income into facilities, equipment, and community initiatives.

The organisation has built a strong operational foundation through the delivery of a seasonal water sports programme that attracts both local users and visiting tourists, contributing to increased activity in the local coastal economy.

To date, the cooperative has established effective governance, secured access to key coastal infrastructure, and developed a safe, well-managed activity offering. It has successfully recruited and retained seasonal staff, directly supporting local employment, and has developed the operational capacity to expand services in response to growing visitor demand.

Ongoing investment in equipment and programme delivery has provided practical insight into current capacity limits and future growth opportunities. Engagement with members and the wider community, including structured feedback through AGM processes, has confirmed demand for enhanced facilities and expanded activity provision.

In preparation for this tender, the organisation has:

- Identified opportunities to increase visitor numbers and extend the tourism season
- Assessed equipment and infrastructure needs to support business growth
- Prioritised investment areas that will enhance visitor experience and safety
- Progressed funding applications aligned with rural tourism and enterprise development
- Initiated competitive quotation processes

This preparatory work demonstrates a clear pathway to increasing tourism activity and sustaining additional seasonal employment, ensuring the proposed investment will deliver measurable economic benefits to the local area.

Turasóireacht Mara is based in Letter Mullen, Co. Galway, Eircode H91CH7X, within a rural coastal Gaeltacht area of Connemara. It serves a dispersed population and is located in a region with a strong maritime tradition, Irish language heritage, and a close connection to the marine environment.

The area is geographically peripheral, with limited year-round employment opportunities, and is heavily reliant on seasonal economic activity, particularly tourism. Despite this, Letter Mullen and the surrounding coastal area are recognised for their natural beauty, attracting domestic and international visitors seeking outdoor and cultural experiences.

The organisation operates from a coastal access point and pier, providing safe and direct access to the sea. This location is ideally suited for the delivery of water sports and marine-based tourism activities and offers significant potential for further development.

While the area benefits from strong tourism appeal, it faces ongoing challenges, including seasonality, rural isolation, and limited infrastructure. The organisation plays a key role in addressing these challenges by enhancing the local tourism offering, supporting employment, and contributing to the long-term sustainability of the Gaeltacht community.

The proposed project will be completed over a 4-month period from the date of funding approval.

- Month 1:
Finalisation of funding agreements, completion of procurement process, and selection of suppliers based on competitive quotations.
- Month 1–2:
Ordering and delivery of equipment.
- Month 2–3:
Installation, setup, and testing of equipment, along with completion of all necessary safety and compliance checks.
- Month 3–4:
Staff familiarisation and integration of equipment into operations, with full rollout in advance of the peak tourism season.

The organisation has existing operational capacity and experience, ensuring efficient delivery of the project within this timeframe.

Project Description:

The project is at an advanced stage of development and is grounded in the organisation's proven track record of delivering seasonal water sports activities within a rural coastal and Gaeltacht area since 2005. The initiative has been shaped by direct operational experience, ongoing community engagement, and a clear strategic focus on supporting rural tourism and local enterprise development.

To date, the need for investment has been clearly established through:

- Sustained delivery of water-based tourism activities, attracting both local participants and visiting tourists
- Identification of capacity constraints during peak periods, limiting potential revenue and visitor numbers
- Ongoing engagement with members and stakeholders, confirming demand for expanded services
- Alignment with local development priorities, particularly in the areas of rural tourism, economic diversification, and job creation

Key barriers are currently restricting growth:

- Insufficient and ageing equipment, limiting the organisation's ability to scale operations and meet tourism demand
- Restricted capacity, preventing the expansion of services and reducing potential economic return
- High operational and capital costs, particularly in relation to insurance and equipment replacement
- Challenges associated with a peripheral rural location, including limited access to private investment

This contract is critical in overcoming these barriers and unlocking the project's full potential. The proposed investment will:

- Support economic development by increasing visitor capacity and enhancing the local tourism offering
- Enable enterprise growth through the expansion of services and improved operational efficiency
- Contribute directly to job creation and employment sustainability, by supporting existing seasonal roles and enabling additional employment opportunities
- Strengthen the viability of a community-led enterprise operating in a rural and Gaeltacht area
- Deliver broader economic benefits through increased visitor spend in the local area

To fulfil the ambitions of this project, Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the following goods, which are broken down into 8 distinct lots. Tenderers are welcome to apply for the delivery of all the lots or for individual lots. Pricing should detail the delivery of each lot individually in the pricing document provided.

The 8 distinct lots are:

- Lot 1: Safety Boat
- Lot 2: Sea Kayaks
- Lot 3: Kayak Trailer
- Lot 4: Helmets
- Lot 5: Sailing Boats
- Lot 6: Sailing boat stand
- Lot 7: Life Jackets
- Lot 8: Wet Suits

Every effort has been made to provide specific detail for each of the lots provided.

Comhar Chuigéal is eager to get as many quotes for each item as possible to ensure that they are getting best value for money. Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification products than is listed under each lot but are required to provide a reason as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

Lot 1: Safety Boat

Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the supply and delivery of a safety boat for the organisation.

Boat

- Overall Length: Approximately 6.5 metres
- Beam: Approximately 2.5–2.6 metres
- Deep-V fibreglass hull
- Heavy-duty Hypalon or Orca tubes with a minimum of five separate air chambers
- Self-draining deck
- Capacity: Minimum 5-6 persons
- Console with windscreen and grab rail
- Twin jockey seats for helm and crew
- Bow locker and anchor storage
- Non-slip deck
- Heavy-duty rubbing strake
- Stainless steel lifting points, towing eyes and mooring cleats

Engine

- Single 150–200 HP four-stroke outboard engine
- Electric start
- Hydraulic steering
- Stainless steel propeller
- Fuel tank: Minimum 140 litres

Electronics

- GPS Chartplotter (minimum 9")
- DSC VHF Marine Radio
- Engine management display
- Compass
- Navigation lights
- Bilge pump with automatic float switch
- Battery isolation switch
- Twin battery system

Safety Equipment

- Automatic lifejackets (crew)
- First aid kit
- Lifebuoy with floating line
- Throw line
- Fire extinguisher
- Anchor, chain and warp

- Paddle
- Emergency toolkit
- Flares (where appropriate)
- Kill cord
- Boarding ladder

Trailer

- Galvanised twin-axle roller trailer
- Winch with safety strap
- Spare wheel
- Lighting board
- Flush hubs suitable for saltwater use

Warranty

- Hull: Minimum 5-year warranty
- Tubes: Minimum 5-year warranty
- Engine: Manufacturer's warranty (typically 5 years subject to servicing)

Intended Use

The vessel will be used for:

- Water sports safety cover
- Sailing and kayaking rescue support
- Safety boat duties during community events
- Instructor support

Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification boats than the above but are required to provide a rationale as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

Lot 2: Sea Kayaks

Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the supply and delivery of 10 sea kayaks with the following specification.

Scope of Supply

Specification:

- Length: Approximately 2.8–3.5 metres
- Durable UV-stabilised polyethene construction
- Single-person sit-on-top design
- Suitable for beginners and experienced paddlers
- Stable hull for use in sheltered coastal waters, bays, lakes and estuaries
- Self-draining scupper holes
- Comfortable moulded seating area
- Adjustable footrests
- Carry handles at bow, stern and sides
- Rear storage well with bungee cords
- Maximum user weight: Minimum 120 kg
- Weight: Approximately 20–30 kg
- Available in high-visibility colours (red, yellow or orange)
- CE marked where applicable
- Suitable for commercial, educational and community water sports programmes

Intended Use:

The kayaks will be used for:

- Community water sports programmes
- Youth and adult kayaking sessions
- School and Irish college activities
- Outdoor education and skills training
- Recreational paddling
- Guided coastal tours
- Water safety and environmental awareness programmes

Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification kayaks than the above but are required to provide a rationale as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

Lot 3: Kayak Trailer

Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the supply and delivery of a trailer to help transport kayaks. The specification of this trailer is as follows:

- Requirement: Supply and delivery of a new, high-capacity, purpose-built sea kayak trailer.
- Intended Use: Transporting 10 sea kayaks (approx. 5–3.5 meters length) securely on national roads and on coastal roads, requiring frequent saltwater exposure.
- Minimum Capacity: 800 kg total Gross Vehicle Weight to accommodate heavy duty sea kayaks and accessories.

Technical Specifications

Chassis and Structure

- Material: Hot-dipped galvanised steel chassis (internal and external) to ensure protection against marine corrosion.
- Design: Multi-tier/modular design (e.g., 3-4 tier) to accommodate at least 10 sea kayaks comfortably without overlapping or damaging decks.
- Adjustability: Adjustable vertical uprights and horizontal loading bars (spars) to accommodate different kayak widths and hull shapes.
- Lashing Points: Multiple securely welded lashing points for straps on all levels.
- Protection: All load-bearing bars must be fitted with protective foam padding or rubber sleeves to prevent damage to sea kayak hulls.

Axle and Towing

- Axle Type: Single or Twin-Axle (if for >8 kayaks) torsion beam axle with sealed bearings (essential for saltwater boat ramps).
- Axle Position: Adjustable galvanised sliding axle to allow balancing of the load to maintain proper nose weight.
- Coupling: Standard 50mm pressed steel coupling with a minimum 400kg capacity. Must include a heavy-duty jockey wheel.
- Braking: Braked system is required if weight exceeds 750kg (recommended for 6-10 kayaks).

Electrical and Safety

- Lighting: Fully submersible waterproof lighting system.
- Lighting Board: Removable rear lighting board with 7-pin or 13-pin connector.
- Wiring: Wiring must be protected inside the chassis tubes.
- Safety Features: High-visibility reflectors (white front, red rear, amber side) and a spare wheel mounted to the chassis.

Wheels and Tyres

- Wheels: Standard road wheels (not small high-speed wheels) for better towing handling and durability on uneven coastal roads.
- Spare Wheel: Mandatory inclusion of a matching spare wheel and bracket.

Optional Extras to Include in Tender

Spare Wheel Carrier: Lockable.

Extended Jockey Wheel: Heavy-duty for sandy terrain.

Winch/Winch Post: For easier loading if required.

Integrated Storage Box: Lockable box on the tongue for lifejackets/straps.

Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification kayak trailer than the above but are required to provide a rationale as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

Lot 4: Safety Helmets

Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the supply and delivery of 60 protective helmets for use in commercial water-based adventure activities, including:

- Coasteering operations (high impact, rock exposure)
- Kayaking and paddle sports (river, lake, and coastal use)
- RIB guiding / safety operations (marine vessel support roles)

Helmets must meet relevant European safety standards and be suitable for professional, high-frequency commercial use in coastal Irish conditions.

Helmets must be supplied in the following sizes and quantities:

- XS 48–50 cm Child / Youth - 15 helmets
- S 51–54 cm Older child / Small adult – 13 helmets
- M 55–58 cm Adult – 20 helmets
- L 58–61 cm Adult – 10 helmets
- XL 61–63 cm Large adult – 2 helmets

Total: 60 helmets

Construction

- Hard outer shell (ABS, polycarbonate, or equivalent)
- Impact-absorbing internal foam liner (EPP or EPS)
- Corrosion-resistant components suitable for saltwater use

Safety Performance

- Multi-impact resistance preferred
- Secure retention system (must not release under water impact)
- Stability in surf, wave impact, and underwater turbulence

Fit & Comfort

- Adjustable fit system (dial or ratchet preferred)
- Quick-adjust chin strap with secure buckle
- Removable, washable padding system
- Must accommodate wetsuits and neoprene hoods
- Different size helmets should be included in the quote

Environmental Resistance

- UV-resistant materials
- Saltwater corrosion resistance
- Rapid drainage and drying capability

Visibility

- High visibility colours required (yellow, orange, red, neon green preferred)
- Optional reflective striping

Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification helmets than the above but are required to provide a rationale as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

Lot 5: Sailing Boats

Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the supply and delivery of 6 sailing boats with launch trolleys for use in commercial water-based adventure activities, with the following specification.

Sailing dinghies to be supplied are to be either single or double handed and should have the following details:

- Be suitable for recreational and sail training use within Ireland
- Meet applicable stability, buoyancy, and structural safety requirements under the Recreational Craft Directive
- Be suitable for operation under the Irish Department of Transport Code of Practice for recreational Craft

Dinghy Specification:

- Length: 3.86 m
- Beam (Width): 1.45 m
- Hull Weight: 60 kg
- Crew Capacity: 1 to 2 people
- Hull Material: Topper TRILAM thermoplastic
- Rig Options: Uno+ (Dacron reefable main & jib), Race+ (Mylar main), and Tres X (with Gennaker/Spinnaker)
- Must Include:
 - Full rig
 - Trolley
 - Top Cover

Safety Equipment including:

- Rudder and dagger board/centreboard
- Painter line
- Drainage bungs
- Toe straps
- Grab handles
- Towing point
- Launch trolley
- Owner/operator manual

Operational Suitability

The craft must be suitable for:

beginner instruction, youth and adult training, capsized recovery training, supervised club sailing, and instructor-led programmes.

Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification sailing boats than the above but are required to provide a rationale as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

Lot 6: Sailing boat stand

Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the supply and delivery of a stand to store 6 sailing boats safely for use in a commercial water-based adventure activity centre, with the following specification.

Sailing Boat Stand:

Design Type

- Freestanding galvanised steel or marine-grade aluminium rack
- Double-sided cantilever arms
- Suitable for outdoor marina/sailing club storage in coastal areas

Capacity

- 6 small sailing dinghies (specification of these dinghies is available in Lot 5 of this document)
- SWL (safe working load):
 - 100 kg per level minimum
 - 400–600 kg total rack load

Dimensions

Typical marina rack dimensions:

- Height: 1800–2400 mm
- Bay width: 1200–1800 mm
- Arm length: 700–1000 mm
- Vertical spacing between levels:
 - Dinghies: 700–1000 mm

Support Arms

- 50 mm SHS or 48 mm tube
- Foam or padded contact points
- Drainage and UV-resistant padding
- Arms adjustable in 50 mm increments preferred

Corrosion Protection

As this stand will be located in a coastal area, the materials used should ensure that minimal corrosion occurs. Suggestions on what optimum materials or protections should be included in each quote.

Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification storage rack than the above but are required to provide a rationale as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

Lot 7: Life Jackets

Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the supply and delivery of 60 buoyancy aids for use in commercial water-based adventure activities, with the following specification.

Size Typical Chest Size Typical User Weight

- XS 70–80 cm 30–40 kg
- S 80–90 cm 40–60 kg
- M 90–100 cm 60–80 kg
- L 100–110 cm 80–100 kg
- XL 110–120+ cm 100 kg+

Minimum safety specifications required:

CE / UKCA marked

Certified to EN ISO 12402-5

Safety features to include:

Minimum 50N buoyancy

Whistle attached

Adjustable waist strap

High-visibility panels or colour

User instructions are permanently marked on the garment

These buoyancy aids are for use in an outdoor water-based activity centre, and tenders should ensure that the items being quoted for are suitable for this environment.

The quantities of buoyancy aids required are as follows:

- XS - 10
- S - 10
- M - 20
- L - 15
- XL -5

Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification buoyancy aids than the above but are required to provide a rationale as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

Lot 8: Wet Suits

Turasóireacht Mara are seeking quotes for the supply and delivery of 60 wetsuits for use in commercial water-based adventure activities, with the following specification.

Minimum safety specifications required:

E marked

Compliant with EN 14225-1:2017

Wetsuit specifications:

- Double-lined neoprene
- Flatlock or glued/blind-stitched seams
- Heavy-duty rear or chest zip
- Abrasion-resistant knee panels
- Suitable for Irish coastal water temperatures
- Thickness: General Irish multi-season use: 4/3 mm

Recommended sizing schedule

- XS 160–168 cm 84–89 cm 54–61 kg
- S 167–173 cm 89–94 cm 61–70 kg
- M 172–178 cm 94–99 cm 70–79 kg
- L 177–183 cm 99–104 cm 79–88 kg
- XL 182–188 cm 104–112 cm 88–100+ kg

Size Quantity

- XS - 8
- S - 12
- M - 18
- L - 14
- XL - 8

Total 60

Tenders are welcome to supply quotes for alternative specification wetsuits than the above but are required to provide a rationale as to why the alternative would better suit the needs of Turasóireacht Mara.

General information and requirements

Evaluation and award criteria:

Evaluation & Award Criteria

Tenders submitted will be evaluated on the below criteria:

- Cost / Value for Money (50%)
- Delivery / returns / after sales policy (15%)
- Safety and compliance (10%)
- Reliability and experience of supplier (25%)

Quotation format

The following information MUST be included on the quotation.

Pricing: Tenderers are welcome to apply for the delivery of all the lots, several lots or for an individual lot. Tender documents need to be clear on which lot is being applied for. Pricing should detail the delivery of each lot individually and evaluation of the tenders will be carried out on each lot individually.

A pricing document is available with this tender specification. Potential suppliers are required to submit a completed pricing document for each lot they are applying for.

Details and Cost: The details of the individual items and individual aspects to which the tender refers should be clearly specified and set out in the tender. This should detail the overall cost and the price per item and any additional post sales services on offer as part of the overall tender. The quote should also include delivery costs, installation costs (if relevant), or any other costs that are associated with the purchase of the goods.

The cost of all the individual elements / items should then be added to give a total net cost. Costs in the tender should be clearly identified in the correct currency Euro (€).

The VAT rate and the VAT amount should be clearly identified and should be calculated and included clearly and separately on the tender

The total cost (which includes the VAT) should also appear.

VAT: The tender must include the VAT registration number of the provider if registered for VAT.

Tax Clearance: The tender must also provide a Tax Clearance number so that Tax Compliance with the Irish Revenue can be established.

Insurance: The supplier must be able to provide proof of appropriate insurance for carrying out the work.

Timeframe: The tender must indicate availability to complete the work for the delivery of the application and associated work. It must also include the amount of time (in days or hours) estimated for the delivery of their proposed work.

Proof of supplier credentials: Please include at least 2 examples of similar work completed, and the names of referees who can be contacted with the tender.

Submission of tenders and queries:

Submission of tender and requests for clarification can be made via the etenders website. Answers to queries will be bulk uploaded and broadcast to all interested suppliers.

Queries on this tender should be submitted before **21st August 2026 at 14:00.**

All quotes are to be submitted via e-tenders before the deadline of **5th September 2026 at 14:00.**