CONSULTANTS REPORT

1 (a) Approx. area of entire school in sq. m: **680**
1 (b) Approx. area of where works are proposed in sq. m: **570**
1 (c) Describe the part(s) of the building for which the proposed project is required. Include, if applicable, details of number of rooms affected, size or area of the building affected etc**.**

Proposed Project	
 **Front of School**	

Coláiste Naomh Eoin is the local secondary school serving Inis Meáin Island, County Galway. The original school building dates from the 1960s, with the school subsequently extended on two occasions: firstly in the mid-1990s and later in the early 2000s.

The existing wastewater treatment system is beyond maintenance, as the system is no longer accessible for inspection, servicing, or repair. Also, while a septic tank arrangement represented an appropriate wastewater management solution at the time of the original school construction, in the 1960s, current wastewater treatment standards and environmental considerations have significantly advanced. Given the site conditions and location, including the presence of rock outcrops and the sensitive landscape setting, the existing arrangement is no longer considered suitable.
A new proprietary wastewater treatment system is therefore required to provide a compliant, reliable, and sustainable solution for the school into the future.

2 Provide a full explanation of the nature and extent of the emergency with supporting photographs as per Appendix 1 Circular 0018/2011

The existing wastewater treatment system serving the school is no longer functioning as an acceptable or reliable means of wastewater treatment. The system is beyond practical maintenance and presents an immediate environmental and health and safety risk.

The engineer has been advised that during winter conditions, when additional rainwater enters the system, septic effluent, including visible waste matter such as excrement and tissue, can be observed within the adjoining field area associated with the wastewater outlet.

Planning permission was granted in 2016 for a replacement wastewater treatment system to address the deficiencies of the existing arrangement; however, the approved replacement works were not progressed and the existing system has continued in use. Planning permission was subsequently granted to be extended but again, works did not materialize.

This presents an immediate health and safety concern, particularly as planning permission has since been granted for a handball alley in the adjacent field close to the existing wastewater outlet area. The continued use of the existing system creates an unacceptable risk to future users of this facility and the wider school community.

The proposed emergency works are therefore required to remove this immediate risk and provide a compliant wastewater treatment solution for the school.

















3. When did the need for these emergency works first arise?

The need for these emergency works has arisen from the ongoing deterioration and inadequacy of the existing wastewater treatment system, which is likely to date to the 1960s.
The existing system has been recognised as substandard for many years, with planning permission granted in 2016 for the provision of a replacement wastewater treatment system. However, the approved replacement system was not constructed, and the existing arrangement has continued to serve the school in the interim.
The urgency of replacing the system has also increased due to proposals for a new handball alley immediately adjacent to the location of the existing wastewater treatment infrastructure. Given the current condition of the system and the potential for wastewater spillage from the existing tank, the proximity of a new recreational facility creates an increased health and safety concern. The replacement of the wastewater treatment system is therefore required as an emergency works measure to provide a safe, compliant and sustainable wastewater solution for the school.

4. What action has the school taken to manage the emergency?

The school has undertaken reactive maintenance measures to manage issues within the sewer network, including rodding of upstream sewer blockages where required. However, these measures are separate to the wastewater treatment system itself and do not address the underlying issue of the existing treatment system being inaccessible, aged and unsuitable for continued operation. A replacement wastewater treatment system is therefore required as an emergency works measure.

5. When was the affected part(s) of the building last replaced and/or remedial works carried out? Where applicable, a description of previous remedial works should be included.

It is the engineer's opinion that the sewers and any treatment system that is present, date to the original construction of the school i.e. 1960's

6. What evidence is there of an effective maintenance programme for the affected area?

The existing wastewater treatment system is beyond economic maintenance, as the system is no longer accessible for inspection, servicing, or repair. While a septic tank arrangement represented an appropriate wastewater management solution at the time of the original school construction in the 1960s, current wastewater treatment standards and environmental considerations have significantly advanced. Given the site constraints, including the presence of rock outcrops and the sensitive landscape setting, the existing arrangement is no longer considered suitable. A new proprietary wastewater treatment system is therefore required to provide a compliant, reliable, and sustainable service for the school.

For the affected area

Is there an Inspection/Maintenance Programme in Place? Yes
If Yes How many times a year is Maintenance carried out? As required

Name the Person/Company & contact details responsible for Maintenance:
There is a full-time caretaker at this school.

7. In your view, how would the school be affected if the proposed works were not carried out?

The system is beyond practical maintenance and presents an immediate environmental and health and safety risk. The system will also pose significant risk to anyone planning on using the adjacent Handball Alley which is targeted to be constructed since grant of Planning Permission received May 2026.

8. Outline the ***minimum works necessary*** to address the emergency ***only***.

Installation of a functioning Waste Water Treatment System for the School.