

**PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT /  
UNITED LEFT ALLIANCE**



# **PROTECT DUBLIN BAY**



**NO DRILLING ON  
OUR SEAFRONT**

**DEMAND A PUBLIC  
ENQUIRY - OBJECT TO  
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# **NO DRILLING ON OUR SEAFRONT DEMAND A PUBLIC ENQUIRY - OBJECT TO THE APPLICATION BY 2 FEB**

**Providence Resources PLC has recently been awarded a licence to explore for oil/gas just off Dalkey Island. They are now looking for a "Foreshore Licence" so that they can set up oil rigs and drill under the sea just 6km from Killiney Beach. They have applied to the Minister for the Environment for this licence and the public has until 2 Feb to submit their concerns on the issue.**

**If Providence gets this licence they will carry out seismic surveys and will then set up a rig and drill up to 11,000 feet under the sea. This process will last up to a year and could be repeated for 6 years.**

**Before granting a foreshore licence the minister has the power to call for a public enquiry. Considering the scale and implications of this application, a public enquiry is vital.**

**People Before Profit/ULA is encouraging everybody to make submissions to the Minister on a number of grounds and to call for a public enquiry.**

**1.** Drilling for oil or gas in Ireland under the current licencing agreements is of NO benefit whatsoever to the people of Ireland. In Norway the state receives 70% of the value of all finds. In Britain, even under the Tories, the state receives 40%. Under the current licencing arrangements in Ireland the exploration company can write off 100% of all costs against tax and after that will only pay 25% tax and NO royalties. This is a giveaway to vastly profitable multi-nationals.

**2.** If Providence Plc were successful in finding oil or gas the result would surely be oil rigs in Killiney and Dublin Bays, pipelines and essentially the full industrialisation of one of the most beautiful stretches of our coastline.

**3.** Providence Plc is owned by billionaire Tony O Reilly. If oil is found Providence and its partners would be under NO obligation to guarantee supply to Ireland. The oil or gas would be sold on the open market for enormous profits and the public would have no benefit.

**4.** The planned drilling is too close to shore. Nowhere in

Ireland has any company been allowed to drill this close to the coastline. If there was an oil spill this close to the most populated place in Ireland the whole bay could be contaminated for decades.

**5.** The area around Dalkey Island is designated a "Special Conservation Area" with a number of rare species of birds, mammals and fish. An oil spill would cause untold damage.

**6.** The seismic survey alone will emit sound pulses under the sea up to 250 decibels. These sound pulses under the sea can seriously disorient marine wildlife. A recent seismic survey carried out by Exxon Mobil near Madagascar, is considered to be the cause of over 100 whales being trapped and stranded.

**7.** The world's dependency on oil is the single biggest contributing factor to climate change. We should now be investing in renewable energies NOT further contributing to this dependency. If Ireland has oil and gas deposits these should only be extracted from the ground if they are going to contribute to investment in renewable energies.

**8.** This application for a foreshore licence is being rushed through in the hope that no one will object. . It was put in just after Christmas and the public only has 21 days to object which ends on 2 Feb.

The full application can be viewed at Dun Laoghaire and Dalkey Garda Stations or on-line at [www.providenceresources.com/dalkeyisland.aspx](http://www.providenceresources.com/dalkeyisland.aspx). All submissions need to be addressed to Minister Phil Hogan, Department of Environment, Custom House, Dublin 1, to arrive no later than 2 Feb.

**The most important thing is to immediately object to this application and to demand a public enquiry, but if Providence are successful we will need a sustained campaign of people power to ensure that this project does not go ahead.**

Further info: Richard Boyd Barrett TD 6183366; Cllr Melisa Halpin 086 3805793 or Cllr Hugh Lewis 086 7814523