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UST202205-016/P.V.B.  
09.06.01

**Subject: droneflight at Hverfjall and lake Mývatn and Laxá**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Francesco Perimeno, dated May 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, for for a permit to fly a drone at Hverfjall and Mývatn

Hverfjall is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited. The guest should follow marked paths at any given time.

Mývatn and Laxá area is protected according to act no. 97/2004. Permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed for construction work and all activity that can affect wildlife, geological formations, vegetation and landscape in the area.

***Description of the project:***

Permit to fly a drone at 5 locations is requested within the protected area Mývatn and Laxá and the nature monument Hverfjall. Location number 4 is within Hverfjall nature monument but the others are within the protected area Mývatn and Laxá. Map that shows the area the drone would fly over was attached to the application. Flight altitude would be 30-100 meters and starting point of the flight would be near the main road. Estimated flight time would be 40 minutes at each location.

***Review:***

In accordance to art. 25. in regulation 665/2012 the Environment Agency of Iceland requested a review from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the Lake Mývatn Research station on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2022. The review from Icelandic Institute of Natural History was received on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2022. In their review they consider it unwise to allow droneflight in the area during nesting season. It is well known that droneflight disturbs birdlife and in an area with high bird nesting density like lake Mývatn it is a risk allowing droneflight in the area. The review from the Lake Mývatn Research station was received on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2022. In their review they point out that falcons are nesting near location 2 and therefor they don't recommend that droneflight is allowed in that area.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative impact on birdlife in the protected area Mývatn and Laxá. The locations within the protected area Mývatn and Laxá where it is requested to fly the drone are known nesting areas and nesting season

has just started when the droneflight would take place. The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on wildlife and visitors experience at Hverfjall if the drone will not fly near other visitors.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

After reviewed the application and regulations for Hverfjall (location number 4 on the map) no permission is needed to fly a drone over Hverfjall if it does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby declines Francesco Perimeno request to fly a drone within Mývatn and Laxá protected area.

The decision may be appealed to the Environmental and Natural Resources Board of Appeal according to art. 26 of Act no. 37/1993 on Administrative Procedures, based on Art. 11 of Act 97/2004 on protection of Mývatn and Laxá within one month since the applicant knew about the decision.

Sincerely

Inga Dóra Hrólfdóttir  
*director*

Ragnheiður Björk Sigurðardóttir  
*advisor*