

## Nichola Meehan

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**From:** Diarmuid Collins  
**Sent:** Wednesday 10 February 2021 12:21  
**To:** Valerie.Brennan@Eirgrid.com  
**Cc:** Des Cox (Des.Cox@Eirgrid.com); Nichola Meehan  
**Subject:** An Bord Pleanála & electronic copies

Good Afternoon Valerie,

I refer to the issue of hard copies and the current Covid-19 restrictions. Given the pandemic and the significant health risk that could arise, An Bord Pleanála (PCI Unit) is agreeable to your request not to have to submit a hard copy of the DAF. We will accept electronic copies in the present circumstances. In relation to electronic copies, please submit 2 copies for us to use and an additional electronic copy for each consenting authority consent so for example 2 electronic copies would be submitted for the CRU consents. We note your comment that this only applies to the DAF.

Regards,  
Diarmuid Collins,  
PCI Unit.

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**From:** Valerie.Brennan@Eirgrid.com <Valerie.Brennan@Eirgrid.com>  
**Sent:** Friday 22 January 2021 10:39  
**To:** Nichola Meehan <N.Meehan@pleanala.ie>  
**Cc:** Diarmuid Collins <D.Collins@pleanala.ie>; Des.Cox@Eirgrid.com  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Scope of the Application document for Celtic Interconnector

Dear Nichola,

Many thanks for providing advice that the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 is the last day for responses from the consenting authorities in relation to the Proposed Project Scope document for the Celtic Interconnector. While administration of the PCI process is of course entirely a matter for ABP, we have previously advised Diarmuid that EirGrid is under pressure to meet very tight timelines in respect of the Connecting Europe Facility funding milestones. This is compounded by the ongoing risk arising that the new Marine Planning Bill may be commenced in the short term, which would profoundly impact upon the consenting process for the Foreshore Licence for the project.

To help manage the concerns and time pressures arising, I would greatly appreciate if you could advise whether it would be possible for you to:

1. Forward us on any consenting authority responses that are received before the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 such that we can work on incorporating that feedback into the scope of the application at the earliest opportunity?

This would reflect our experience of the standard practice of the Strategic Infrastructure (SI) Unit of ABP in respect of administration of public submissions for SID application files.

2. Issue us with your formal response to the Proposed Project Scope document at the earliest possible opportunity after the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 such that we can manage any scope changes arising as urgently as we possibly can?

Secondly, I note that Diarmuid had previously indicated that the PCI Unit would expect a hard physical copy of the Draft Application File (DAF) in addition to an electronic copy of same. There is no problem whatsoever in providing the PCI Unit with electronic copies of the DAF. However, in terms providing of a hard copy of same, given the current Level 5 Covid19 restrictions and the clear advice from the Government to stay away from workplaces, the provision of a hard copy of the DAF will constitute a significant challenge. The DAF will be a large suite of documents contained in boxes that ordinarily would have to be collated in the large Board room of an office by a team of people who have ready access to a printer. Neither our consultants nor we in EirGrid have access to office space or printers at present given the current Covid19 restrictions, and this is anticipated to remain the case for some time. Nor, you will appreciate, is it desirable to bring such a team together into a shared space to assist in the collation process. Appreciating the difficulties arising in this particular respect, I feel that I must kindly ask whether the PCI Unit would be agreeable to receiving the DAF in electronic format only? For the avoidance of doubt, this relates only to submission of the DAF at this time (envisaged end-Feb/early-March) and not to the submission of the final application file itself.

I look forward to hearing from you in relation to these queries,

Many thanks in advance and best regards,

Valerie.

Valerie Brennan  
Consents Coordinator  
Celtic Interconnector Project  
 Co-financed by the European Union  
Connecting Europe Facility

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**From:** Nichola Meehan [<mailto:N.Meehan@pleanala.ie>]  
**Sent:** 19 January 2021 14:46  
**To:** Brennan, Valerie (EXT)  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Scope of the Application document for Celtic Interconnector

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click on any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content to be safe.

Dear Valerie,

I refer to your email received on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

Please be advised that the last day for response from the consenting authorities in relation to the scope document is 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

Yours Sincerely

Nichola

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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**From:** Valerie.Brennan@Eirgrid.com <Valerie.Brennan@Eirgrid.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:16:18 PM  
**To:** Nichola Meehan <[N.Meehan@pleanala.ie](mailto:N.Meehan@pleanala.ie)>  
**Cc:** Des.Cox@Eirgrid.com <[Des.Cox@Eirgrid.com](mailto:Des.Cox@Eirgrid.com)>; Diarmuid Collins <[D.Collins@pleanala.ie](mailto:D.Collins@pleanala.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Scope of the Application document for Celtic Interconnector

Dear Nichola,

Many thanks for confirming receipt of the Project Scope Document that we issued to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020.

We are currently trying to programme various associated activities and indeed are working to a very tight programme - to that end, it would be extremely helpful, if at all possible, if you could please provide us with an indication of when it may be possible for ABP to revert back to us with any comments that they may have in relation to the Project Scope Document?

While I appreciate we now not long after the Christmas period, I know that when EirGrid submitted a similar document for the same purpose to ABP for the North South Interconnector, we received the response within 10 days. I'm just wondering if it might be possible that we could expect to have ABO's response before the end of next week say?

Thanking you very much in advance,

Yours sincerely,

Valerie.

**Valerie Brennan**  
Consents Coordinator  
Celtic Interconnector Project  
 **Co-financed by the European Union**  
Connecting Europe Facility

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**From:** Nichola Meehan [<mailto:N.Meehan@pleanala.ie>]  
**Sent:** 12 January 2021 15:33  
**To:** Brennan, Valerie (EXT)  
**Subject:** Proposed Scope of the Application document for Celtic Interconnector

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click on any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content to be safe.

Dear Valerie,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your email received on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 attaching the Proposed Scope Document for the Celtic Interconnector Project.

Yours sincerely

Nichola Meehan  
Executive Officer  
01-8737135

Nichola Meehan  
Executive Officer  
Processing Section  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
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Diarmuid Collins

Procurement, Internal Audit & PCI

Ext: 7256

