

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-015213-24
ABP-316332-23

At meetings held on 24/01/2024 and 25/01/2024, the Board considered the report of the Inspector, the documents submitted as part of the pre-application consultation under Section 287A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended on design flexibility.

In accordance with Section 287B(2) of the Act, the Board determined that due to the specific circumstances of the development, it is satisfied that the proposed application can be made and decided before certain details of the application are confirmed.

In this regard an opinion on design flexibility shall issue to the prospective applicant as set out below:

Information	Details/ Circumstances
a) The details, or groups of details, of the proposed development that may be confirmed after the proposed application has been made and decided.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Turbines (Model, Number & Dimensions [Tip height, Rotor diameter, Rotor swept areas, Nacelle height & Hub height])2. Turbine Foundations (Type & Pile Dimensions)3. Offshore Substation Platform (Dimensions [Height above sea level, Length & Width])4. Siting of infrastructure – Fixed location with limit of deviation (Turbines, Foundations, Export cable and Offshore Substation Platform location)5. Offshore cabling (Subsea cable size & Subsea cable length).

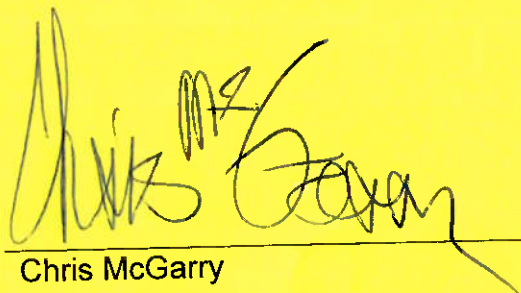
b) The circumstances relating to the proposed development that indicate that it is appropriate that the proposed application be made and decided before the prospective applicant has confirmed the details referred to in paragraph (a) above.

Ongoing advances in technology and recognition of the need to install the most efficient and effective project elements in relation to Items 1 to 5 above.

For each detail, or groups of details, referred to above, the proposed application shall, in addition to any other requirement imposed by or under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, be accompanied by the information referred to in the undertaking and be in the form of the options range and set of parameters, submitted with the flexibility meeting request under section, 287A(2)(f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The Board decided not to accept the request for design flexibility for the extent and nature of the protection for subsea cable associated with the proposed development, as the Board considered that this element of the proposed development relates to normal construction practices that are intrinsic to the installation of the development. Options related to construction practice that may not be clarified at application stage, should be set out and assessed in the application documentation (including the EIAR and NIS) and in the event of a favourable decision on the application, construction related methodologies could be agreed prior to commencement of development, by way of compliance with a planning condition.

Board Member



Chris McGarry

Date: 26/01/2024