



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Direction
ABP-322060-25

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 27/06/2025.

The Commission decided, generally as recommended by the Inspector, as set out in the following Order, that the works are development and are exempted development.

Commission Order as follows:-

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the underground MV ducting and cabling linking existing and proposed substations is or is not development or is or is not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS Highfield Solar Limited requested a declaration on this question from Meath Council and the Council issued a declaration on the day of 25th of February, 2025 stating that the matter was development and was not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS Highfield Solar Ltd., referred this declaration for review to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 12th day of March, 2025:

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiun Pleanála, in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –

- (a) Section 2(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (b) Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000,
- (c) article 6(1) and article 9(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (d) Parts 1 and 3 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (e) the planning history of the sites,

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiun Pleanála has concluded that

- (a) the laying of the underground cables comes within the scope of Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and therefore constitutes development,
- (b) the referrer in this case, Highfield Solar Limited, is a statutory undertaker and an electricity undertaking, within the meaning of Article 3(3) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (c) the carrying out by the referrer of the development in question comes within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to these Regulations and is, therefore, exempted development, and
- (d) the restrictions on exemption set out in Section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and set out in Article 9(a)(vii) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, do not apply in this instance

NOW THEREFORE An Coimisiun Pleanála, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 5(3)(a) of the 2000 Act, hereby decides that the underground MV ducting and cabling linking existing and proposed substations is development and is exempted development.

**Planning
Commissioner:**



Tom Rabbette

Date: 27/06/2025