



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Board Direction

**Ref: 16.PM0013**

At a meeting of the Strategic Infrastructure Division, held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017, it was decided that the proposed alteration would be material, and that consultation should be carried out.

At a further meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Board considered the documentation on file, including the submissions received arising from consultation with the public and with prescribed bodies, and the further report of the Inspector dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Board decided, generally in accordance with the inspector's recommendation, as follows:

- Not to hold an oral hearing in relation to the proposed alteration
- that the making of the alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, and
- to make the alteration, and to attach conditions as set out below.

### REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) the nature and scale of the proposed alteration,
- (b) the documentation and submissions on file, including the submissions received in response to the public notice dated the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017, and
- (c) the reports of the Inspector.

The Board was satisfied that the information before it was adequate to undertake a screening for appropriate assessment and a screening for environmental impact assessment in respect of the proposed alteration.

## **Appropriate Assessment Screening**

In conducting a screening exercise for appropriate assessment, the Board considered the nature, scale and context of the proposed alteration, the documentation on file, in particular the Appropriate Assessment screening report submitted with the application, the submissions on file – including those from of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and from Inland Fisheries Ireland - and the assessment of the Inspector in relation to the potential for effects on European Sites. In undertaking the screening exercise, the Board accepted the analysis and conclusions of the Inspector. The Board concluded that, by itself and in combination with other development in the vicinity, the alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the River Moy SAC (site code 002298) or on any other European Site in view of their conservation objectives. A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (and submission of a NIS) is not therefore required.

## **Environmental Impact Assessment Screening**

The Board considered the potential environmental impacts that might arise due to the proposed alteration, both by itself and in cumulation with other development in the vicinity. Having regard to the characteristics of the receiving environment, the characteristics of the proposed alteration, and the submissions on file, the Board is satisfied that the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Board concurred with the analysis and conclusions of the Inspector in this matter. The Board, therefore, concluded that the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required, either by means of any mandatory requirement or following sub-threshold analysis.

## **Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development**

The Board concluded that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed alteration would be an acceptable, temporary development that would facilitate implementation of the permitted wind farm project without any unacceptable impacts on the natural heritage of the area or on the amenities of the area. The proposed alteration would be acceptable in terms of traffic safety and convenience of road users. The Board concluded that making the proposed alteration would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**Conditions:**

1. Excavation works, pouring of concrete, and reinstatement works, shall only be undertaken in dry weather.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. The works at Cloongullane Bridge shall be included in the scope of Condition 5 - Environmental Management Plan (EMP). In this regard, a separate module of the EMP shall be prepared in accordance with the documentation received by An Bord Pleanála on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017. Once agreed with the planning authority, a copy of the EMP module shall be submitted to Inland Fisheries Ireland for information.

**Reason:** In the interest of environmental protection.

3. Following completion of turbine components/ oversize loads, the site at Cloongullane Bridge shall be re-instated to the satisfaction of the planning authority within a period of six months.

**Reason:** To ensure satisfactory reinstatement of the site in the interests of the amenities of the area.

Note on Board Direction: in deciding not to hold an oral hearing, the Board considered that the case could be considered in a satisfactory manner based on the written material on file. The grounds raised by the party seeking an oral hearing relate primarily to the parent project (approved under PA0029) as opposed to the subject alteration.

Board Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Conall Boland