An Coimisiún Pleanála

Commission Order

ACP-324377-26

Planning and Development Acts, 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Carlow County Council

(Associated application reference number: ABP-322690-25)

REQUEST received by An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 11th day of June 2026 from PRT Solar Limited care of Malone O'Regan Environmental, Unit 3, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, to make alterations to the permitted 110 kilovolt substation and underground grid connection, a strategic infrastructure development the subject of a permission granted under An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number ABP-322690-25.

WHEREAS the Commission made a decision to approve permission, subject to conditions, for the above-mentioned development by order dated 19th day of December 2025,

AND WHEREAS the Commission has received a request to alter the terms of the development, the subject of the approval,

AND WHEREAS the proposed alteration is described as follows:

- Two additional 110 kilovolt bays, increasing the permitted strategic infrastructure development from a substation with two-bay configuration to a four-bay configuration

AND WHEREAS having regard to the issues involved, the Commission decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, not to invite submissions or observations from such a person or class of person in relation to the matter,

AND WHEREAS the Commission decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the proposed alterations would not result in the making of a material alteration to the terms of the development, the subject of the approval,

AND WHEREAS having considered all of the documents on file and the Inspector's report, the Commission considered that the making of the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment or on any European Site,

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the Commission hereby alters the above-mentioned development so that the permitted development shall be altered, in accordance with the plans and particulars received by An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 11th day of June 2026 for the reasons and considerations set out below.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

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

(i) The limited nature, scale and extent of the proposed alterations, when considered in the context of the overall development permitted under An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number ABP-322690-25,

(ii) the documentation on file,

(iii) the report of the Inspector.

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

Appropriate Assessment - Screening

In conducting a screening exercise for appropriate assessment, the Commission considered the nature, scale and context of the proposed alteration, the documentation on file including the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement Addendum submitted with the application and the assessment of the Inspector in relation to the potential for effects on European Sites. In undertaking the screening exercise, the Commission accepted the analysis and conclusions of the Inspector. The Commission concluded that, by itself and in combination with other development in the vicinity, the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on any other European Site in view of their conservation objectives. A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (and submission of a Natura Impact Statement) is not, therefore, required. In reaching this conclusion, the Commission took no account of mitigation measures intending to avoid or reduce the potentially harmful effects of the development on any European Site.

Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development

Having regard to:

- the nature and details of the parent approval An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number ABP-322690-25,
- the limited nature and scale of the alterations,
- the location of the proposed alterations, within the footprint of the existing substation site,
- the limited visibility of the proposed alterations outside the confines of the site,
- the examination of the environmental impact, including in relation to European Sites, carried out in the course of that application,
- the absence of any significant new or additional environmental impacts arising as a result of the proposed alterations, and
- the report of the Commission's Inspector, which is adopted,

The Commission concluded that the making of the proposed alteration would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Tom Rabbette
Member of An Coimisiún Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Commission.
Dated this 10th **day of** May **2026.**