

File With S

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal NO: ABP -313583-22

Defer Re O/H



TO:SEO

Having considered the contents of the ^{Observation} ~~submission dated~~ received 10/6/22
fromRóisín Shorthall I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000
be/not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s): No new issues raisedE.O.: Date: 27/7/22

To EO: _____

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage. ☐Section 131 to be invoked – allow 2/4 weeks for reply. ☐

S.E.O.: _____

Date: _____

S.A.O.: _____

Date: _____

M _____

Please prepare BP _____ - Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached
submission

to: _____ Task No: _____

Allow 2/3/4weeks – BP _____

EO: _____

Date: _____

AA: _____

Date: _____

File With _____

CORRESPONDENCE FORM

Appeal No: ABP _____

M _____

Please treat correspondence received on _____ as follows:

1. Update database with new agent for Applicant/Appellant _____

2. Acknowledge with BP _____

3. Keep copy of Board's Letter ☐

1. RETURN TO SENDER with BP _____

2. Keep Envelope: ☐3. Keep Copy of Board's letter ☐**Amendments/Comments****4. Attach to file**(a) R/S ☐(d) Screening ☐(b) GIS Processing ☐(e) Inspectorate ☐(c) Processing ☐**RETURN TO EO** ☐Plans Date Stamped ☐Date Stamped Filled in ☐**EO:****AA:****Date:****Date:**



ROISIN SHORTALL T.D.

10th June 2022

313583: Lands adjacent to Huntstown Power Station, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11 (FW21A/0151)

Description: Demolition of 2 no. existing residential dwellings and construction of 2 no. data hall buildings. EIAR submitted with application

Case type: Planning Appeal

To whom it may concern,

I write regarding the above planning appeal and wish to state the following concerns:

- Our antiquated electricity grid cannot sustain further data centres. In the last four years alone, the increase in demand from data centres on our power supply has been equivalent to the addition of 140,000 homes each year. This level of increased demand is simply not sustainable.
- Between 2015 and 2020, data centre consumption of electricity increased by 144% according to research by the Central Statistics Office. That represents 11% of total electricity consumption. By 2030, that could rise to 30pc of overall consumption.
- This mushrooming of data centres has taken place without any significant investment in upgrading our energy grid and without any preconditions that data centres must use renewable energy or incorporate district heating.
- Last month, Eirgrid stopped discussions with data centre promoters to ease pressure on power supplies. This followed the decision of the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) to restrict data centre's access to the grid. These decisions were taken to safeguard our energy security and An Bord Pleanála should be cognisant of this when making its decision.
- Not only is the rapid proliferation of data centres jeopardising our energy security, but it also has a huge climate cost. An Taisce has branded data centres a major global climate and energy consumption issue. Yet data centres continue to be approved planning permission nationwide, with an estimated one third of global data now housed in Ireland.
- As outlined in the appeals document from An Taisce, the Climate Act stipulates that Ireland must achieve net zero emissions or climate neutrality by 2050 and a 51% reduction in emissions by 2030. To achieve this, the State's energy system must be fully decarbonised by 2050. In view of these ambitious targets, and the limited time we have to tackle climate change, we must halt the approval of energy-hungry data centres. The longer we wait, the worse the problem is going to get, and the harder it will be to resolve.

- These data centres also require enormous amounts of water to power them and use massive quantities of water to cool the servers down, particularly in summer months. Analysis by Irish Water has found that in weather where cooling is required, an average data centre could use between 500,000 to 5 million litres per day. The upper end of this usage is equivalent to the total usage of Dundalk's near 40,000 inhabitants who use up to 4.9 million litres a day.
- The local water infrastructure simply cannot absorb this level of usage, even at the lower end of this average. Furthermore, given that residents of Fingal have had to reduce their water consumption over successive dry spells, it would fly in the face of good planning policy to allow this development to proceed. If An Bord Pleanála does not overturn Fingal County Council's decision, this development could further jeopardise the local water infrastructure, along with the local grid.

In view of the above concerns, I would strongly urge An Bord Pleanála to refuse permission in this case.

Kind regards,
Róisín Shortall

Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2