

Department of Transport
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2
D02 TR60

Date: 09 October 2023

Re: Proposed Coolglass windfarm and related works

In the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.


The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Ashling Doherty
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737160

PA09

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Ashling Doherty

From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday 9 October 2023 10:43
To: SIDS
Cc: goreilly@slrconsulting.com; Transport GCU
Subject: Proposed Coolglass Wind Farm, Co. Laois
Attachments: 20231009 DoT reply_Coolglass.docx

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached the Department of Transport's observations in relation to the Coolglass Windfarm Project SID application to An Bord Pleanála.

It is also recommend that a copy of the response be forwarded to the Director of Services for Roads and Planning in Laois County Council.

Best wishes,

Liam

Liam Hawkes
Central Policy, Coordination & Reform Division

An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport

Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

T | +35316041452
M | +353(0) 87 4708109
www.gov.ie/transport

I am working flexibly. If you are receiving this email outside of normal working hours, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.

Please note my availability is as follows:

- *Working remotely: Monday & Friday, 09:00-17:30*
- *Working in office: Tuesday, Wednesday & every second Thursday 09:00-17:30*

If your query requires an urgent response, please email GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie



An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough St.,
Dublin 1,

9th October 2023

Re: Proposed Coolglass Windfarm, Co. Laois

To whom it may concern,

The Department of Transport has the following comments in relation to the proposed Coolglass Windfarm Project SID application to An Bord Pleanála. The wind farm development is located in the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, County Laois.

It is also recommended a copy of the response be forwarded to the Director of Services for Roads and Planning in Laois County Council.

Should the developer propose the placement of any cables (or additional cables) in one or more trenches within the extents of the (regional and local) public road network, it is necessary to consider the following:

- Their presence within the public road will likely significantly restrict the Road Authority in carrying out its function to construct and maintain the public road and will likely add to the costs of those works.
- Their installation within the lands associated with the public road may affect the stability of the road. In particular where the road is a "legacy road" (where there is no designed road structure and the subgrade may be poor or poorly drained) the design needs to take account of all the variable ground conditions and not be based on a sample of the general soil conditions.
- The possible effect on the remaining available road space (noting that there may be need to accommodate other utilities within the road cross-section in the future).
- The necessity to have the power in the cables switched off where the Road Authority considers this necessary in order to carry out its function to construct and maintain the public road.

The Department consider it important that the examination of the proposal should include consideration of the following:

- Examination of all options other than the routing of cables along the public road,
- Examination of options for connection to the national grid network at a point closer to the wind farm in order to reduce the adverse impact on public roads.
- Details of where within the road cross section cables are to be placed so as to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance,



- Examination of details of any chambers proposed within the public road cross section so as to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance,
- Elimination of jointing bays from beneath the road pavement to protect the integrity of the road structure for the safety of those driving on the public road by eliminating hard spots and also preserve the road width for other utilities,
- Prevention of the attachment of cables to all bridge structures and culverts by diverting them beneath these structures and,
- Rationalisation of the number of cables involved (including existing electric or possible future cables) and their diversion into one trench, in order to minimise the impacts on the road network and the environment along the road boundary (hedgerows).

Kind regards,

Central Policy, Coordination and Reform

An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

T +353 (0)1 604 1177

gcu@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

cc.

Mr Gerard O'Reilly
SLR Environmental Consulting (Ireland) Ltd
Dundrum Business Park
Dublin 14