



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Record of 1st Meeting ABP-322632-25

Case Reference / Description	Design Flexibility Request for the proposed Cooloo Windfarm consisting of 9 no. wind turbines with an estimated maximum energy capacity of c. 54MW. (ABP-316466-23) Within the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter, Co. Galway.		
Case Type	Design Flexibility Opinion		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Date	10/07/2025	Start Time	11:40am
Location	Virtually	End Time	12:00pm

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Una Crosse, Assistant Planning Director
Donogh O'Donoghue, Senior Planning Inspector
Sinead White, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Ronan Dunne, MKO
Hannah Rice, MKO
Brandon Taylor, MKO
Eoin McCarthy, MKO

Introduction

The Commission referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 22nd May 2025, requesting pre-application consultations under section 37CC of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The Commission's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Commission will keep a record of this meeting which will form part of the file which will be made available publicly once an application is made. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Commission once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Commission in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant stated that there were some unconfirmed details related to the turbine rotor diameter and turbine hub height and outlined the parameters for which flexibility was sought.

The prospective applicant discussed their reasons for submitting a design flexibility opinion request.

The prospective applicant discussed the unconfirmed details and how they would be considered in the planning drawings and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, with multiple scenarios proposed to be considered.

Discussion:

- The Commissions representatives began the discussion by outlining the potential difficulty which may arise in the proposed approach to consider the maximum parameters only for certain factors in the EIAR rather than the maximum, median and minimum as proposed for others. The prospective applicant responded to say they would review this matter.
- The prospective asked whether the commission close the consultation case or is it up to the prospective applicant before the Commissions representatives confirmed that the Commission will close the consultation period on the Design Flexibility Opinion.

Conclusion:

The Commission's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will be issued in the meantime and that the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 12:00pm.



Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning