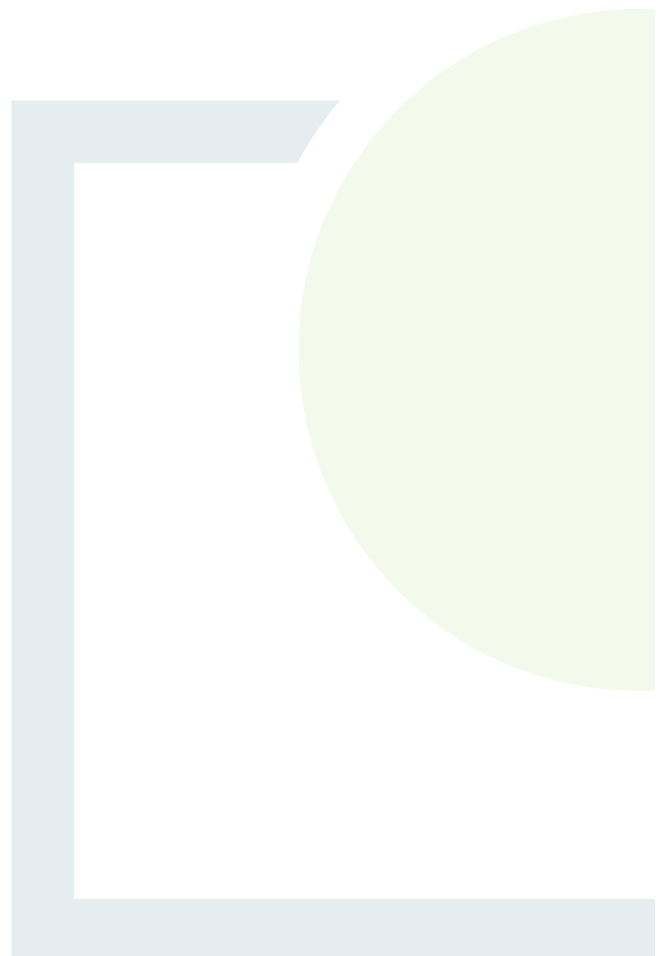




DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

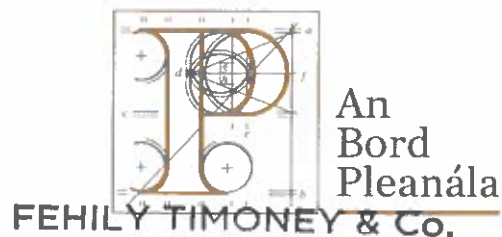
Appendix 1.1

SID Determination and
Meeting Minutes



Our Case Number: ABP-321495-24

Your Reference: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited



Distribution

09 APR 2025

Fehily Timoney & Company
Rita Mansfield
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
Co. Cork
T12 D773

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Date: 08 April 2025

Re: 11 no. turbine wind farm and associated infrastructure.

Located within the townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the meeting of the 12/03/2025.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Raymond Muwaniri
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737125

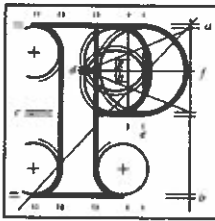
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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
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An
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Pleanála

Record of 1st Meeting ABP-321495-24

Case Reference / Description	ABP-321495-24 - 11 no. Turbine Wind Farm and Associated Infrastructure, located within the townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway.		
Case Type	Pre-application Consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st		
Date	12/03/2025	Start Time	11:50 hrs
Location	Virtual	End Time	12:00 hrs

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Staff Members
Una Crosse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Una O'Neill, Senior Planning Inspector
Emmet Smyth, Senior Scientist
Raymond Muwaniri, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Rita Mansfield, Fehily Timoney
Robyn Nicholl, Fehily Timoney
Matt Geraghty, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd
Michael James, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd
Cliona O'Sullivan, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 16th of December 2024 requesting pre-application consultations under Section 37CC of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and advised the prospective applicant that the first meeting constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board. It also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board 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 outlined the unconfirmed details of the proposed development for which they are seeking design flexibility under Section 37CC of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

- The prospective applicant has sought flexibility on the turbine dimensions - tip height 179.25m / 180m / 180m), the rotor diameter (149.1m / 150m / 155m) and the hub height (104.7m / 105m / 102.5m)

Discussion:

- The Board's representatives requested that the prospective applicant outline the rationale for seeking a design flexibility opinion on unconfirmed details.
- The prospective applicant outlined the following:
 - Exact make and model of turbines will not be known until the outcome of the tender process at time of procurement.
 - Future proofing and flexibility for turbine make and model is required to ensure most up to date technology is employed and avoid market dominance by any one particular brand/manufacture.
 - Lengthy lead in times from planning to construction and operation, therefore flexibility in turbine design is necessary.
- It was also noted by the Board's representatives that it was their preliminary view that the maximum export capacity was not a matter subject to the flexibility provisions.
- It was noted by the Board's representatives that the design flexibility file and details therein remain confidential until an application is made.

Conclusion:

The Board's representatives advised that the record of this meeting will be issued following the meeting, and any comments can be forwarded in writing to the Board. Following circulation of the meeting record, the prospective applicant is requested to respond to the Board to acknowledge receipt of same such that the consultation process can be closed and the matter forwarded to the Board for determination of the request.

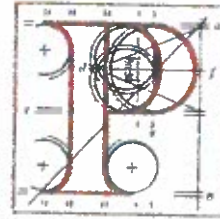


Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning

Our Case Number: ABP-321507-24

Your Reference: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited



An
Bord
Pleanála

Fehily Timoney & Company
Rita Mansfield
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
Co. Cork
T12 D773

Date: 08 April 2025

Re: 11 no. turbine wind farm and associated infrastructure.
Located within the townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the meeting of the 12/03/2025.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Raymond Muwaniri
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737125

VC07

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution

09 APR 2025

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

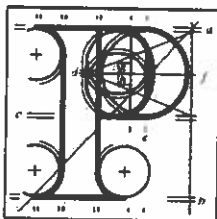
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Record of 1st Meeting ABP-321507-24

Case Reference / Description	ABP-321507-24 - 11 no. Turbine Wind Farm and Associated Infrastructure, located within the townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway.		
Case Type	Pre-application Consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st		
Date	12/03/2025	Start Time	11:00 hrs
Location	Virtual	End Time	11:50 hrs

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Staff Members
Una Crosse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Una O'Neill, Senior Planning Inspector
Emmet Smyth, Senior Scientist
Raymond Muwaniri, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Rita Mansfield, Fehily Timoney
Robyn Nicholl, Fehily Timoney
Matt Geraghty, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd
Michael James, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd
Cliona O'Sullivan, RWE Renewable Ireland Ltd

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 16th of December 2024 requesting pre-application consultations under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and advised the prospective applicant that the first meeting constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board. It also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant:

RWE has been involved in the Energy Sector for 120 years, focusing on wind energy, solar power and battery storage in Ireland. The site location is approximately 154ha in size and located 8km northwest of Tuam and 3.5km east of Shrule. RWE is proposing 11 no. turbines with individual power outputs of between 5.6 to 6.6MW, 110kV onsite substation and a loop in connection to the existing Cashla Dalton 110kV overhead line. All turbines are located within the 'Open to Consideration' zoning classification for Wind Energy, outlined in the Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028. Average wind speed in the area is 6m/s.

A small portion of the site falls within a flood zone, and a detailed Flood Model will be prepared. Noise will be assessed within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a limit of 43dB has been assumed or +5dB above background, and 40dB for low noise areas has been adopted. 3 locations above daytime levels have been identified. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been based on rotor diameter of 155m, and tip height of 180m. A total of 21 no. viewpoints have been identified and due to the gently rolling landscape there is limited locations with sufficient elevation to have visibility of the turbines above hedgerows and treelines.

The wind farm will be cumulatively assessed against surrounding developments within a 20km radius. There is 1 no. existing wind farm within the study area (Clonlusk), and 2 no. at planning stage (Laurclavagh and Clonberne).

Discussion:

- The Board's representative noted the proposed development was the subject of a previous pre-application process, which is now closed, for a similar scaled development which was determined to be SID. The applicant was requested to provide an update with respect to surveys undertaken, including in relation to biodiversity, and all other technical aspects of the proposal since the previous consultation process was closed. The prospective applicant stated surveys were ongoing since the previous pre-application consultation was held with the Board, with the last round of surveys undertaken in November 2024.
- Some turbine locations have been revised due to the presence of bats.
- The prospective applicant was advised to clearly set out the baseline guidance and methodology applied to assessments within the planning application documentation.
- The prospective applicant outlined that their LVIA chapters would refer to the design flexibility options proposed. The Board's representative advised them to ensure the impacts of all options are examined in the EIAR, and to consult the planning authority in relation to viewpoints chosen.
- The prospective applicant stated that the limited area of Annex I habitat identified within the site area is highly degraded. Floating roads are proposed in certain areas, limiting the potential impact on peat and raised bog.
- One badger sett has been identified on the site no potential damage anticipated, with biodiversity enhancement proposed within the site to ensure net biodiversity gain.
- The prospective applicant outlined the proposed drainage strategy site and outlined that the Office of Public Works were satisfied.
- The turbine delivery route is being examined by the Road's Department of Galway County Council.
- The Board's representative highlighted the importance of consultation with prescribed bodies, including inter alia the National Parks Wildlife Services.

- The Board's representative noted Canadian pondweed, which is an invasive species, was previously identified throughout the site which it was advised should be considered as part of the application.
- The Board's representatives enquired if surveys showed presence of species associated with European sites in the wider area. The prospective applicant stated that bird surveys have been ongoing since 2021. Raptors and ground nesting birds can be found in the area, but low collision risk for the site.
- The cumulative assessment undertaken should address all environmental factors comprehensively.
- The Board's representative identified two watercourses at risk and enquired about any potential impacts anticipated to ground water quality, as well as any potential dewatering processes. The prospective applicant outlined their proposal to clear a small forest area to provide a sediment pond, nutrient runoff control, and the implementation of a diffuse filter to separate the clean and dirty water onsite. Gravity Foundation dewatering is proposed.
- In relation to noise, the prospective applicant was advised to clearly highlight where mitigation is proposed, for example by way of curtailment. Application documentation should consider the current and draft Wind Energy Guidelines, or any update at the time of the application.
- The prospective applicant intends to submit one application to include the wind turbines and electricity infrastructure, under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Conclusion:

The Board's representatives advised that onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The Board'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.

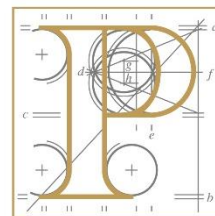
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Una Crosse', is written over a horizontal line.

Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning

Our Case Number: ABP-321495-24

Your Reference: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited



An
Bord
Pleanála

Fehily Timoney & Company

Rita Mansfield

Core House

Pouladuff Road

Co. Cork

T12 D773

Date: 13th June 2025

Re: 11 no. turbine wind farm and associated infrastructure.

Located within the townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer to the above-mentioned proposed development.

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37CC of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board has formed an opinion on design flexibility. A copy of the opinion is enclosed.

Please note that the Board's opinion on design flexibility will not be available for public inspection until an application is made to it under section 37E of the Act. Information in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, is also enclosed.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Moss

Executive Officer

Direct Line: 01-8737285

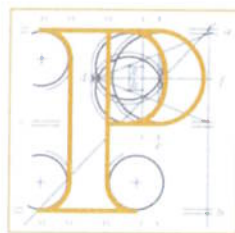
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An Bord Pleanála Opinion on Flexibility

2) Request for meeting	
Request under section 37CC of the Act:	Request for Design Flexibility in relation to a proposed windfarm comprising 11 number turbines.
Request reference Number:	ABP-321495-24
Name of the requestor/ prospective applicant:	RWE Renewables Ireland Limited
Location, townland or postal address of the land or structure to which the application relates (as may be appropriate):	Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Cloonsheen, Cloonteen, Corillaun , Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe, and Tonacooleen in county Galway, near the Mayo border.
Nature and extent of the proposed development:	Proposed 11 number wind turbines with an electrical output of between 61.6 megawatts and 72.6 megawatts, 110 kilovolt substation, a loop-in 110 kilovolt underground cable connection, 33 kilovolt underground electrical and communication cabling underground between the proposed turbines and the proposed on-site substation and associated Control Building, one number meteorological mast, three number temporary construction compounds, access roads both new and upgrade of existing, new watercourse

	crossings, turbine delivery accommodation works to existing road network, and all ancillary works.
Date of receipt of the request:	16 December 2024
Opinion Reference Number:	ABP-321495-24
Date of Opinion Meeting:	12 th March 2025

3) Was the following Information included where relevant, with the Flexibility Meeting Request under section 37CC of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

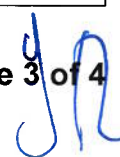
Information	Enclosed with Request		
(a) A site location map sufficient to identify the land on which the proposed development would be situated.	Yes: [X]	No: []	
(b) A brief description of the nature and purpose of the proposed development and of its possible effects on the environment.	Yes: [X]	No: []	
(c) A draft layout plan of the proposed development.	Yes: [X]	No: []	
(d) A description of the details, or groups of details, of the proposed development that, owing to the circumstances set out in (e) below, are unlikely to be confirmed at the time of the proposed application.	Yes: [X]	No: []	
(e) A description of the circumstances relating to the proposed development that indicate that it is appropriate that the proposed application be made and decided, before the prospective applicant has confirmed the details referred to in (d) above.	Yes: [X]	No: []	
(f) An undertaking to provide with the proposed application, either -	Yes: [X]	No: []	

i. two or more options, in respect of each detail or group of details referred to in (d) above containing information on the basis of which the proposed application may be made and decided, ii. parameters within which each detail referred to in paragraph (d) above will fall and on the basis of which the proposed application may be made and decided, or iii. a combination of (i) and (ii).			
(g) Such other information, drawings or representations as the prospective applicant may wish to provide or make available.	Yes: [X]	No: []	N/A: []
(h) The appropriate fee.	Yes: []	No: []	N/A: [X]

At a meeting held on 27th day of May 2025, the Board considered the report of the Inspector, the documents submitted as part of the pre-application consultation under section 37CC of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended on design flexibility.

In this regard an opinion on design flexibility shall issue to the prospective applicant as set out below:

4) Opinion of the Board under section 37CD of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.	
Information	Details/ Circumstances
a) The details, or groups of details, of the proposed development that may be confirmed after the proposed application has been made and decided.	1. Turbine Dimensions: (a) Turbine tip height (b) Rotor diameter (c) Hub height



<p>b) The circumstances relating to the proposed development that indicate that it is appropriate that the proposed application be made and decided before the prospective applicant has confirmed the details referred to in paragraph (a) above.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To facilitate the procurement process; ii. To avail of up-to-date technology; iii. To ensure flexibility given long lead times from planning to construction to operation.
--	---

For each detail, or groups of details, referred to in paragraph 4(a) above, the proposed application shall, in addition to any other requirement imposed by or under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, be accompanied by the information referred to in the undertaking submitted with the flexibility meeting request under section, 37CC(2)(f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The proposed application must be consistent with the opinion provided in accordance with section 37CD of the Act.



Tom Rabbette

Member of An Bord Pleanála

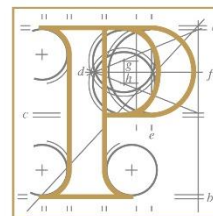
duly authorised to authenticate

the seal of the Board

Dated this 13th day of June 2025

Our Case Number: ABP-321507-24

Your Reference: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited



An
Bord
Pleanála

Fehily Timoney & Company

Rita Mansfield

Core House

Pouladuff Road

Co. Cork

T12 D773

Date: 13th June 2025

Re: 11 no. turbine wind farm and associated infrastructure.

Located within the townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby serves notice under section 37B(4)(a) that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Any application for permission for the proposed development must, therefore, be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Board considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed.

Attached is a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development.

Further notifications should also be made where deemed appropriate.

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board will make available for inspection and purchase at its offices the documents relating to the decision within 3 working days following its decision. This information is normally made available on the list of decided cases on the website on the Wednesday following the week in which the decision is made.

In accordance with the fees payable to the Board and where not more than one pre-application meeting is held in the determination of a case, a refund of €3,500 is payable to the person who submitted the pre-application consultation fee. As only one meeting was required in this case, a refund of 3,500 will be sent to you in due course.

The following information relates to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

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Judicial review of An Bord Pleanála decisions under the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts (as amended).

A person wishing to challenge the validity of a Board decision may do so by way of judicial review only. Sections 50, 50A and 50B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as substituted by section 13 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, as amended/substituted by sections 32 and 33 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and as amended by sections 20 and 21 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011) contain provisions in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of the Board.

The validity of a decision taken by the Board may only be questioned by making an application for judicial review under Order 84 of The Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986). Sub-section 50(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires that subject to any extension to the time period which may be allowed by the High Court in accordance with subsection 50(8), any application for judicial review must be made within 8 weeks of the decision of the Board. It should be noted that any challenge taken under section 50 may question only the validity of the decision and the Courts do not adjudicate on the merits of the development from the perspectives of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and/or effects on the environment. Section 50A states that leave for judicial review shall not be granted unless the Court is satisfied that there are substantial grounds for contending that the decision is invalid or ought to be quashed and that the applicant has a sufficient interest in the matter which is the subject of the application or in cases involving environmental impact assessment is a body complying with specified criteria.

Section 50B contains provisions in relation to the cost of judicial review proceedings in the High Court relating to specified types of development (including proceedings relating to decisions or actions pursuant to a law of the state that gives effect to the public participation and access to justice provisions of Council Directive 85/337/EEC i.e. the EIA Directive and to the provisions of Directive 2001/12/EC i.e. Directive on the assessment of the effects on the environment of certain plans and programmes). The general provision contained in section 50B is that in such cases each party shall bear its own costs. The Court however may award costs against any party in specified circumstances. There is also provision for the Court to award the costs of proceedings or a portion of such costs to an applicant against a respondent or notice party where relief is obtained to the extent that the action or omission of the respondent or notice party contributed to the relief being obtained.

General information on judicial review procedures is contained on the following website, www.citizensinformation.ie.

Disclaimer: The above is intended for information purposes. It does not purport to be a legally binding interpretation of the relevant provisions and it would be advisable for persons contemplating legal action to seek legal advice.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

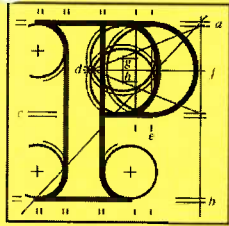
Yours faithfully,



Ellen Moss

Executive Officer

Direct Line: 01-8737285



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-019782-25
ABP-321507-24

The submissions on file and the inspector's report were considered at a Board Meeting held on the 27/05/2025.

The Board decided that having regard to the size, scale and location of the proposed windfarm and related development, and to the policy context, it is considered that the proposed development comprising the development of a 11-turbine windfarm with an overall output of over 50 MW with associated infrastructure, on a site in the townlands of Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, in Co. Galway constitutes development that falls within the definition of energy infrastructure in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, thereby satisfying the requirements set out in Section 37A(1) of the Act.

The proposed development is also considered to be of strategic importance by reference to the requirements of Section 37A(2)(a), 37A(2)(b), and 37A(2)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. An application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under Section 37E of the Act.

The Board recommended the application documents should be forwarded the list of Prescribed Bodies below for their consultation and consideration for the purposes of Section 37E (3) (c) of the Act:

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Development Applications Unit)
- Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications

- Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Galway County Council
- Mayo County Council
- The Northern and Western Regional Assembly
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- An Taisce
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- Heritage Council
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Office of Public Works
- Uisce Eireann
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Health Service Executive
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities

Further notifications should also be made, where deemed appropriate.

Board Member



Tom Rabbette

Date: 28/05/2025