

Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport
Department of Culture, Communications and Sport
Leeson Lane,
Dublin,
D02 R5Y3



21 November 2025

Our Ref: P20306-FT-EN-XX-LT-EN-0004

Re: Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Planning Application for the development of a Wind Farm consisting of 11 no. turbines (and all associated works) in the townlands of Beagh, Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonweelaun, Cloonnaglasha, Cloonteen, Corillaun, Derrymore, Ironpool, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter was originally issued on 04 September 2025. However, An Coimisiún Pleanála advised us that this correspondence was never received so we reissued the letter dated 03 November 2025. However in this letter, we didn't advise of the 6 week time period from date of issue, for responses. We are reissuing again, dated 21 November 2025, with correct response time provided.

I write to inform you that RWE Renewables Ireland Limited is applying to An Coimisiún Pleanála for permission for the development of a Wind Farm consisting of 11 no. turbines (and all associated infrastructure) in the townlands of Beagh, Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonweelaun, Cloonnaglasha, Cloonteen, Corillaun, Derrymore, Ironpool, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway.

See enclosed 1 No. electronic copy of planning documentation as follows:

- Planning Application Documentation
- Planning Application Drawings (Drawing Schedule included as Addendum A to Application Form)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
 - Volume I – Non-Technical Summary (NTS)
 - Volume II – EIAR Main Report
 - Volume III – EIAR Appendices (including Photomontages)
 - Volume IV – EIAR Drawings/Figures
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

This application is being made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála in accordance with section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for a renewable energy development. This position was confirmed by An Coimisiún Pleanála to the applicant on the 13th June 2025 following pre-application consultations with An Coimisiún Pleanála (Case Number ABP-321507-24), a copy of An Coimisiún Pleanála's determination is enclosed as part of Addendum F of the planning application.

Public notices for the proposed development were published as follows, with copies of same enclosed as Addendum D and Addendum E of the planning application:

- Newspaper Notices published on Wednesday 17th September 2025 in the Tuam Herald and the Irish Daily Star.
- Site Notice – 10 no. notices erected on Thursday 18th September 2025.

This development is covered by the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III (Directive 2023/2413) and the planning application is subject to a completeness check under section 37JA of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025.

Certain details of the proposed development are unconfirmed in the planning application and an opinion on unconfirmed details made on 13th June 2025 by An Coimisiún Pleanála (ref ABP-321495-24) pursuant to 37CD of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended accompanies this planning application (Addendum F). The details unconfirmed in this application are the turbine tip height, rotor diameter and hub height. The range of parameters under which the turbine dimensions will fall are specified on this site notice and in the design flexibility opinion that accompanies the application.

The proposed development will comprise:

- i. Construction of 11 no. wind turbines with a ground to blade tip height range of 179.25 m to 180 m. The wind turbines will have a rotor diameter ranging from 149.1 m to 155 m and a hub height ranging from 102.5m to 105m.
- ii. Construction of permanent turbine foundations and crane pad hardstanding areas and associated drainage;
- iii. Construction of 13,725 m of internal access tracks and associated drainage infrastructure (of which 1,770 m will be floated road);
- iv. Upgrading of 3,565 m of existing tracks and road and associated drainage infrastructure;
- v. Construction of 1,180 m of temporary access track to facilitate HDD cable crossing of the Togher River;
- vi. Creation of 1 no. new construction and operation access to the wind farm Site from the L-2234 local road and one road crossing of the L-2220-21 local road;
- vii. All associated drainage and sediment control including interceptor drains, cross drains, settlement ponds and swales;
- viii. Installation of new watercourse crossings including 1 no. 18.5 m single span bridge crossing and 14 new piped culverts;
- ix. All associated excavation, earthworks and spoil management;
- x. 3 no. temporary construction compounds and associated ancillary infrastructure including parking;
- xi. Construction of 1 no. permanent onsite 110kV electrical substation, associated new access road off of the L-6100 local road, and associated construction compound including:
 - Welfare facilities
 - Electrical infrastructure
 - Parking

- Wastewater holding tank
 - Rainwater harvesting tank
 - Security fencing;
- xii. Works associated with the connection of the wind farm to the national electricity grid, which will be via a loop-in 110 kV underground cable connection 650 m in length to the existing Cashla-Dalton 110 kV overhead line in the townland of Tonacooleen, with two new 16m high steel loop-in lattice tower end masts for loop-in connection at the connection point.
- xiii. Installation of 33 kV medium voltage electrical and communication cabling underground between the proposed turbines and the proposed on-site substation and associated ancillary works including Control Building;
- xiv. Erection of 1 no. permanent meteorological mast to a height of 110 m above ground level with a 4m lightning pole on top.
- xv. Turbine Delivery Accommodation works:
- R332 / L6483 Junction (Beagh townland) - temporary load bearing surface will be laid and the drainage ditch temporarily culverted. Vegetation will be cleared. One utility pole will be temporarily removed.
 - On the L6483 (Beagh, Cloonweelaun and Ironpool townlands), temporary load bearing surface will be laid to provide a minimum 4.5 m running width and a 5.5 m clearance width for turbine delivery.
 - L6483 (Ironpool townland) – temporary load bearing surface will be laid and vegetation will be cleared. Two road signs will be temporarily removed.
- xvi. Felling of 0.54 ha of conifer plantation forestry;
- xvii. 2,032 m Treeline/hedgerow removal; and
- xviii. 9.7 ha of Biodiversity Enhancement lands plus 2,457.50 m of hedgerow/treeline planting

A 30-year operational life from the date of full commissioning of the entire wind farm (including meteorological masts) is being sought. This reflects the lifespan of modern-day turbines.

A permanent planning permission is being sought for the 110 kV electrical infrastructure (loop-in grid connection and substation) as these will become an asset of the national grid under the management of EirGrid and will remain in place upon decommissioning of the wind farm. The Works associated with the connection of the wind farm to the national electricity grid will be carried out by a statutory undertaker which will have a right or interest to provide or carry out works for the provision of electricity services.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the proposed development and accompany the planning application. The EIA Portal ID is 2025169 and the project details have been uploaded to the EIA Portal. The EIAR and NIS are prepared in respect of the construction, operation and, decommissioning of the proposed development and works to facilitate connection to the national grid and for turbine delivery from the port of entry of Galway to the site entrance at Cloonaglasha via the Lough Atalia Road, College Road/R339, Connolly Avenue, Tuam Road/R336, N6, M6, M17, N17, R332 and the L6483.

The planning application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) are enclosed, but may also be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on **29th September 2025** at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 (9:15am – 5:30pm, Monday to Friday).
- Galway County Council, Planning Department, County Hall, Prospect Hill, Galway.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website:
www.ShancloonWindFarmSID.ie

You are advised that An Coimisiún Pleanála may in respect of an application for permission decide to:

- a) grant the permission/approval, or
- b) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
- c) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
- d) Refuse permission to grant the permission/approval.

Submissions or Observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 relating to:

- a) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
- b) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- c) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588100).

Any submissions/observations must be received by the Board not later than 5.30 p.m. on the **19th January 2026**, 6 weeks from the issue date of this letter (which accommodates the Christmas period).

Yours sincerely,



Rita Mansfield

for and on behalf of Fehily Timoney and Company

Encl.