Addendum 4 - Response to Q18 of SID Application Form – Design Flexibility Opinion, Form 22, SID Determination & Prescribed body letters

Our Case Number: ABP-316466-23

Your Reference: Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited

An Coimisiún Pleanála

MKO
Received on
22 SEP 2025
190723

MKO Planning & Environmental Consultants
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

Date: 19 September 2025

Re: Cooloo Windfarm consisting of 9 no. wind turbines with an estimated maximum energy capacity of c. 54MW.
Within the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter, Co. Galway.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Commission 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) and (b) of the Act. Accordingly, the Commission 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 Coimisiún Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Commission 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.

- Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Minister of Climate, Energy and the Environment
- Galway County Council
- Roscommon County Council
- The Northern and Western Regional Assembly
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- An Chomhairle Ealaion (Arts Council)
- The Heritage Council
- Failte Ireland
- An Taisce
- Uisce Eireann
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- HSE
- The Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Office of Public Works

Further notifications should also be made where deemed appropriate.

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

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Commission 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.

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

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

A person wishing to challenge the validity of a Commission 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 Commission.

The validity of a decision taken by the Commission 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 Commission. 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 Commission or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

pp Hell

Sinéad White
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737202

PC09

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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
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Planning Referrals,
An Taisce,
5 Foster Place,
Temple Bar,
Dublin,
D02 V0P9

Our Ref: 190723
Your Ref:

Date: 26th September 2025

Re: **Section 37E Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a Wind Farm Development (and all associated works) at Cooloo and surrounding townlands, Co. Galway**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) as 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. In correspondence from An Coimisiún Pleanála dated 19th September 2025, following pre-application consultations with the Commission (ABP Ref. 316466), An Coimisiún Pleanála confirmed the SID nature of the proposed development and prescribed a list of bodies to be notified of the application. Your organisation was included in the list of prescribed bodies and therefore we wish to provide you with a copy of the application for your consideration.

The proposed development will consist of the provision of the following:

i. 9 no. wind turbines with the following parameters:
   - Total turbine tip height of 180 metres;
   - A rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres;
   - A hub height of 99 - 105 metres;
ii. Permanent turbine foundations, hard-standing and assembly areas;
iii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling;
iv. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);
v. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;
vi. 1 no. new site entrance on the R332 in the townland Lisavally;
vii. 1 no. new access and egress point off the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter;
viii. 1 no. new access and egress point on to an existing access track of the L62312 in the townland of Dangan Eighter;

ix. 1 no. new access and egress points off the L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo and Lecarrow;
x. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hard-standing areas;
xi. A new temporary access road from N63 national road and to R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;
xii. Demolition of an existing derelict house and adjacent outbuilding in the townland of Cooloo;
xiii. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;
xiv. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;
xv. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures;
xvi. Site Drainage;
xvii. Operational Stage site signage; and
xviii. All ancillary apparatus and site development works above and below ground, including soft and hard landscaping.

This application seeks a ten-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm.

As the project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) the application has been notified to the EIA Portal. The EIA Portal ID is 2025179 and that the project details have been uploaded to the EIA Portal.

The following documents are included in the application pack:

- Planning Application Documentation
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- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
  - *Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Main Report*
  - *Volume 2 – Photomontage Booklet*
  - *Volume 3 – EIAR Appendices*
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

An electronic copy of the planning application pack as outlined above is enclosed with this letter.

The application will be available for inspection at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála and Galway County Council for a period of seven weeks commencing on the 3rd October 2025.All documentation associated with the application as lodged can also be found at the dedicated project website: www.cooloowfplannning.com

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála (the Commission) in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to:

i. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
ii. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
iii. The likely effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Commission not later than 5.30 p.m. on the 21st November 2025.

Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland. H91 VW84
+353 (0)91 735611 | info@mkoireland.ie | www.mkoireland.ie | @mkoireland
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No. 462657. VAT No. IE9693052R.

- The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- The reasons, consideration and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Commission.

The Commission may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application (refer to 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' at www.pleanala.ie). The Commission may in respect of an application for permission decide to:

(a) (i) grant the permission, or
(ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
(iii) grant permission 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

(b) Refuse to grant the permission.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Commission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical Information on the review mechanism can be accessed on the Commissions website (www.pleanala.ie) under the following heading: Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice. This information is also available on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Ronan Dunne
Project Planner
MKO

Fáilte Ireland
Manager of Environment & Planning
Environment and Planning Team
88-95 Amiens Street
Dublin 1
D01 WR86

Our Ref: 190723
Your Ref:

Date: 26th September 2025

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Chief executive officer
Aras anChontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway,
H91 H6KX

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Project Planner
MKO

Aras na hOidhreachta
Church Ln,
Gardens,
Kilkenny,
R95 X264

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Yours sincerely,

Ronan Dunne
Project Planner
MKO

Health and Safety Authority
Metropolitan Building
James Joyce Street
Dublin 1
D01 K0Y8

Our Ref: 190723
Your Ref:

Date: 26th September 2025

Re: **Section 37E Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a Wind Farm Development (and all associated works) at Cooloo and surrounding townlands, Co. Galway**

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Inland Fisheries Ireland
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer
3044 Lake Drive
Citywest Business Campus
Dublin 24
D24 CK66

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The Times Building,
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D02 T449

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Project Planner
MKO

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Agriculture House
Kildare Street
D02 WK12

Our Ref: 190723
Your Ref:

Date: 26th September 2025

Re: **Section 37E Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a Wind Farm Development (and all associated works) at Cooloo and surrounding townlands, Co. Galway**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Neoen Renewables Ireland Ltd., (Ferry House, 48-53 Lower Mount Street Dublin 2, D02 PT98, Ireland), please find enclosed a copy of the planning application for the proposed construction of a wind energy development (and all associated infrastructure) within the townlands of Cloondahamper (Blake), Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally and Slievegorm in Co. Galway which comprises a renewable energy development as defined by The European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025.

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) as 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. In correspondence from An Coimisiún Pleanála dated 19th September 2025, following pre-application consultations with the Commission (ABP Ref. 316466), An Coimisiún Pleanála confirmed the SID nature of the proposed development and prescribed a list of bodies to be notified of the application. Your organisation was included in the list of prescribed bodies and therefore we wish to provide you with a copy of the application for your consideration.

The proposed development will consist of the provision of the following:

i. 9 no. wind turbines with the following parameters:
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iii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling;
iv. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);
v. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;
vi. 1 no. new site entrance on the R332 in the townland Lisavally;
vii. 1 no. new access and egress point off the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter;
viii. 1 no. new access and egress point on to an existing access track of the L62312 in the townland of Dangan Eighter;
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This application seeks a ten-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm.

As the project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) the application has been notified to the EIA Portal. The EIA Portal ID is 2025179 and that the project details have been uploaded to the EIA Portal.

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The application will be available for inspection at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála and Galway County Council for a period of seven weeks commencing on the 3rd October 2025.All documentation associated with the application as lodged can also be found at the dedicated project website: www.cooloowfplannning.com

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála (the Commission) in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to:

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Yours sincerely,

Ronan Dunne
Project Planner
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Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Leeson Lane,
Dublin,
D02 R5Y3

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Custom House
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D01 W6X0

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MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland. H91 VW84
+353 (0)91 735611 | info@mkoireland.ie | www.mkoireland.ie | @mkoireland
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No. 462657. VAT No. IE9693052R.

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Office of Public Works
Jonathan Swift Street,
Trim,
Co Meath
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MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland. H91 VW84
+353 (0)91 735611 | info@mkoireland.ie | www.mkoireland.ie | @mkoireland
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No. 462657. VAT No. IE9693052R.

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Yours sincerely,

Ronan Dunne
Project Planner
MKO

Áras an Chontae
Roscommon
Co Roscommon
F42 VR98

Our Ref: 190723
Your Ref:

Date: 26th September 2025

Re: **Section 37E Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a Wind Farm Development (and all associated works) at Cooloo and surrounding townlands, Co. Galway**

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MKO

Commission for Regulation of Utilities
The Grain House
The Exchange
Belgard Square North
Tallaght
Dublin 24
D24 PXW0

Our Ref: 190723
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The Northern & Western Regional Assembly,
Dillon House
Ballaghaderreen
Co. Roscommon
F45 WY26

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Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Parkgate Business Centre,
138 Parkgate St,
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Re: **Section 37E Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a Wind Farm Development (and all associated works) at Cooloo and surrounding townlands, Co. Galway**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Neoen Renewables Ireland Ltd., (Ferry House, 48-53 Lower Mount Street Dublin 2, D02 PT98, Ireland), please find enclosed a copy of the planning application for the proposed construction of a wind energy development (and all associated infrastructure) within the townlands of Cloondahamper (Blake), Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally and Slievegorm in Co. Galway which comprises a renewable energy development as defined by The European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025.

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) as 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. In correspondence from An Coimisiún Pleanála dated 19th September 2025, following pre-application consultations with the Commission (ABP Ref. 316466), An Coimisiún Pleanála confirmed the SID nature of the proposed development and prescribed a list of bodies to be notified of the application. Your organisation was included in the list of prescribed bodies and therefore we wish to provide you with a copy of the application for your consideration.

The proposed development will consist of the provision of the following:

i. 9 no. wind turbines with the following parameters:
   - Total turbine tip height of 180 metres;
   - A rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres;
   - A hub height of 99 - 105 metres;
ii. Permanent turbine foundations, hard-standing and assembly areas;
iii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling;
iv. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);
v. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;
vi. 1 no. new site entrance on the R332 in the townland Lisavally;
vii. 1 no. new access and egress point off the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter;
viii. 1 no. new access and egress point on to an existing access track of the L62312 in the townland of Dangan Eighter;
ix. 1 no. new access and egress points off the L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo and Lecarrow;

x. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hard-standing areas;
xi. A new temporary access road from N63 national road and to R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;
xii. Demolition of an existing derelict house and adjacent outbuilding in the townland of Cooloo;
xiii. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;
xiv. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;
xv. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures;
xvi. Site Drainage;
xvii. Operational Stage site signage; and
xviii. All ancillary apparatus and site development works above and below ground, including soft and hard landscaping.

This application seeks a ten-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm.

As the project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) the application has been notified to the EIA Portal. The EIA Portal ID is 2025179 and that the project details have been uploaded to the EIA Portal.

The following documents are included in the application pack:

- Planning Application Documentation
- Planning Application Drawings (Drawing Schedule included with Application Form)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
  - *Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Main Report*
  - *Volume 2 – Photomontage Booklet*
  - *Volume 3 – EIAR Appendices*
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

An electronic copy of the planning application pack as outlined above is enclosed with this letter.

The application will be available for inspection at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála and Galway County Council for a period of seven weeks commencing on the 3rd October 2025.All documentation associated with the application as lodged can also be found at the dedicated project website: www.cooloowfplannning.com

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála (the Commission) in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to:

i. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
ii. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
iii. The likely effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Commission not later than 5.30 p.m. on the 21st November 2025.

Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland. H91 VW84
+353 (0)91 735611 | info@mkoireland.ie | www.mkoireland.ie | @mkoireland
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No. 462657. VAT No. IE9693052R.

- The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- The reasons, consideration and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Commission.

The Commission may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application (refer to 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' at www.pleanala.ie). The Commission may in respect of an application for permission decide to:

(a) (i) grant the permission, or
(ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
(iii) grant permission 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

(b) Refuse to grant the permission.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Commission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical Information on the review mechanism can be accessed on the Commissions website (www.pleanala.ie) under the following heading: Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice. This information is also available on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Ronan Dunne
Project Planner
MKO

Supplementary information to accompany an application accompanied by an opinion on flexibility

1. Prospective Applicant Name:	Neoen Renewables Ireland Ltd.

2. Contact details of person authorised to operate on behalf of the Prospective Applicant (Applicant or Agent): (Not for Public release)	
Name:	Ronan Dunne, MKO
Correspondence Address:	MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84
Telephone:	+353 (0)91 735 611
Email:	rdunne@mkoireland.ie

3. Proposed Development	
Address of the proposed development:	The site is located in the townlands of Cloondahamper (Blake), Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally and Slievegorm, Co. Galway.

Description of the proposed development:	The proposed development will consist of the provision of the following: (i) 9 no. wind turbines with the following parameters: • Total turbine tip height of 180 metres; • A rotor blade diameter of 150 to 162 metres; • A hub height of 99 to 105 metres; (ii) Permanent turbine foundations, hard-standing and assembly areas; (iii) Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling; (iv) 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities); (v) A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area; (vi) 1 no. new site entrance on the R332 in the townland Lisavally; (vii) 1 no. new access and egress point off the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter; (viii) 1 no. new access and egress point on to an existing access track in the townland of Dangan Eighter; (ix) 2 no. new access and egress points off the L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo and Lecarrow; (x) Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, clear span crossings, junctions and hard-standing areas; (xi) A new temporary access road from N63 national road and to R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads; (xii) Demolition of an existing derelict house and adjacent outbuilding in the townland of Cooloo; (xiii) Peat and Spoil Management Areas; (xiv) Tree felling and hedgerow removal; (xv) Biodiversity Management and Enhancement measures; (xvi) Site Drainage; (xvii) Operational Stage site signage; and

	(xviii) All ancillary apparatus and site development works above and below ground, including soft and hard landscaping. This application seeks a ten-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm.

4. Declaration:	
I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this form is correct and accurate and fully compliant with the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the Regulations made thereunder.	
5. Signature of person authorised to operate on behalf of the Prospective Applicant:	
Ronan Dunne, MKO Planning (AGENT), Tuam Road, Galway	
Date:	26th September 2025

6. Information on Flexibility Meeting Request and Opinion on Flexibility	
Meeting requested under section 32H, 37CC, 182F or 287A of the Act:	Section 37CC(1) Request- section 37E application (SID)
Meeting Reference Number:	ABP-316466-23
Date of Meeting Request:	22nd May 2025
Date of Meeting:	10th July 2025
Opinion Reference Number:	ABP-322632-25
Date of Opinion:	19th September 2025

7. Document to be submitted			
Document	**Enclosed with Request**		
A copy of the opinion issued under section 32I, 37CD, 182G or 287B of the Planning and Development Act 2000	Yes: [✓]	No: [ ]	

8. Statement of flexibilities
(a) Outline each of the of the details, or groups of details, of the proposed development that are unconfirmed in the application
The details unconfirmed in this application are the rotor diameter and hub height.
(b) For each detail, or groups of details, referenced in (a) above confirm whether the application for permission in respect of the unconfirmed details is being made on the basis of options, parameters or both and provide a description of the details of the options, parameters or both.

Detail	**Options/ Parameters/ Both**	**Details of options/ parameters or both**
Hub Height	Parameters	95m to 105m inclusive
Rotor Diameter	Parameters	150m – 162m inclusive

9. Official Use only:	
Planning Reference:	
Board Stamp:	

An Coimisiún Pleanála

An Coimisiún Pleanála Opinion on Flexibility

(1) Request for meeting	
Request under section 37CC of the Act:	Request for Design Flexibility in relation to a proposed windfarm at Cooloo and adjacent townlands in County Galway.
Request reference Number:	ABP-322632-25
Name of the requestor/ prospective applicant:	Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited
Location, townland or postal address of the land or structure to which the application relates (as may be appropriate):	Cooloo and adjacent townlands in County Galway.
Nature and extent of the proposed development:	9 number wind turbines with an estimated energy generating capacity of between 54 and 64.8 MW underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling, 1 number meteorological mast, 1 number temporary construction compound, access roads both new and upgrade of existing and all ancillary works.
Date of receipt of the request:	22nd May 2025
Opinion Reference Number:	ABP-322632-25
Date of Opinion:	16th September, 2025

(2) 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 - 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,	Yes: [X]	No: [ ]	

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: [ ]	No: [ ]	Elevations and plan drawing
(h) The appropriate fee.	Yes: [ ]	No: [ ]	N/A: [X]

At a meeting held on 16th September, 2025, the Commission 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:

(3) Opinion of the Commission 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) Rotor Diameter b) Hub height
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.	i. To allow the perspective applicant to take advantage of new technologies which may become available during consenting process. ii. To facilitate the procurement process

	iii. To ensure against the potential for obsolescence of existing technology.

For each detail, or groups of details, referred to in paragraph 3(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.

Chris McGarry
Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate the seal of the Commission.

Dated this 1st day of September 2025