

Derry upper

Modeligo

Cappagh

Dungarvan

Co Waterford

13/11/2025

The Secretary

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

To whom it may concern

An Coimisiún Pleanála Case Reference: VA93.323791

Strategic Infrastructure Development Application (SID Determination ref: ABP-317824-23) by TOBIN Consulting Engineers on behalf of FuturEnergy Scart Mountain Designated Activity Company

Description: Proposed Development of a 110kV underground Grid Connection from the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm development (case ref: PA93.321522, currently awaiting decision) to Dungarvan substation in County Waterford.

The proposed 110kV grid connection and related works are located within the townlands of of

Ballykerin Middle, Ballymacmague North, Carrigaun (Hely), Carrowgarrieff Beg, Carrowgarrieff More, Churchquarter, Colligan More, Colliganmountain, Colliganwood, Coolroe, Glen Lower, Glen Upper, Graigue Beg, Graigue More, Inchindrisla, Inchindrislawood, Killadangan, Lisroe, Newtown, Parkmore, Scart (Hely), Scart (Sergeant), Scartmountain, Staigbraud, and Vicarstown South, Co.

Waterford.www.scartmountaingridplanning.ie

I wish to make the following Observations against the above planning application for the construction of Scart Mountain Grid Connection,

This planning application is for construction of an underground 110kV Grid Connection (and all associated infrastructure) that will connect the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm (ACP Ref. 321522) development (approximately 4 km northeast of Cappoquin and approximately 13 km northwest of Dungarvan) to the existing 110kv Dungarvan substation in County Waterford. The cable route will be constructed primarily within public roads within the jurisdiction of Waterford City and County Council.

The site of the no. 15-turbine proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm itself is located in an area deemed a 'Wind Energy Exclusion' area and 'Highly Sensitive' in the Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment by Waterford City and County Council (WCCC) under the Waterford City and County Council Development Plan 2022-2028.

I understand I can no longer make an Observation against the wind farm development, I wish the Commission to bear in mind that its unsuitability needs to be taken into consideration when making a decision on the above referenced Grid Connection Application as both developments are interdependent on each other and one cannot function without the other – as the Applicant themselves states.

Waterford County has designated and zoned many alternative locations as 'Preferred' and 'Open to Consideration' under the Wind Energy Strategy of the Development Plan. One of the aims of the Renewable Energy Strategy is to maximise the opportunities for renewable energy development whilst safeguarding the environment and other important amenities, subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment requirements.

Much research and careful consideration was undertaken by WCCC when deciding the areas of suitability for wind farm development. As the Commission will be aware, the Planning Authority of Waterford County Council does not recommend that planning permission be granted for the proposed wind farm development – this was unanimously agreed by all councillors present at the Dungarvan and Lismore District Meeting on 26 February 2025.

My main concerns for this Grid Connection planning application are:

- Significant disruption to and adverse impacts on everyday life in the area, The road network and infrastructure in this area comprises mostly sub-standard and narrow twisting roads which can cater to the needs of this quiet rural community but not to the significant volume of heavy construction traffic, road closures and detours associated with this application. These concerns are not addressed within the traffic chapter of the application and no road surveys or counts were

carried out to assess the impacts on everyday life of the community such as access for school buses, emergency service vehicles, work commutes, farm machinery, motorists and walkers. These are serious oversights in this application and does not provide sufficiently detailed findings to allow for the commission to fully consider these impacts.

- Noise. A significant level of noise disruption will be inevitable due to the volume of heavy construction equipment that will be deployed along the proposed route.
- Consultation. As residents living nearby the proposed route we do not believe we have been adequately consulted which is an obligation upon the applicant. We have received only a single mail correspondence some years ago which did not engage with or address the impacts of the planned development and does not meet the social licence aspect of the process.
- Updates to the 2006 Wind Farm development Guidelines. Revisions to the current Wind Farm development guidelines will pay regard to international best practice and standards. It could be hoped that the new guidelines will be published in 2026, I contend that the present rush to submit such applications in advance of the new guidelines is a cynical attempt to avoid meeting any such new requirements which will be based on the latest research findings and will set the blueprint for sustainable and responsible wind energy generation into the future.

I trust that An Coimisiún Pleanála will refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed Grid Connection, based on the grounds of this Observation and other reasons which the Commission consider appropriate for refusing permission.

Yours faithfully



Richard Sheehan