

The Secretary  
An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1  
D01V902

19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**HW Planning**

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**Directors:**

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**Company Reg. No:**

486211

**Re: Application under section 182A of the Planning and Development Acts (as amended) by Drumdowney Solar Farm Limited for the approval by An Coimisiún Pleanála for a period of 10 years for development at Rathpatrick (townland), County Kilkenny. The proposed development comprises 1) A 110kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) electricity substation with two-storey GIS substation building, single-storey Independent Power Producer (IPP) control room building, High Voltage (HV) electrical equipment and associated infrastructure (to include transformer, lightning protection masts, back-up diesel generator, fire/blast wall, telecoms pole, perimeter security fencing, security lighting, water and drainage infrastructure, and temporary construction compound) to connect to and serve solar farm development; 2) Associated loop-in / loop out grid connection infrastructure to connect into an existing 110kV overhead transmission line (including underground 110kV cabling, 2 No. new interface towers and decommissioning of ca. 15m of existing 110kV overhead line); 3) Construction and operational access from the public road L34142; 4) All ancillary site development, landscaping and earthworks. The development subject to this application forms part of grid connection and access arrangements which will facilitate the connection of the proposed Drumdowney Solar Farm (Kilkenny County Council Reference 25/60391) to the national grid. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development. The NIS includes consideration of the proposed Drumdowney Solar Farm which is located in the townlands of Atateemore or Blackneys, Ballyhobuck, Ballyrahan, Carriganurra, Charlestown, Davidstown, Drumdowney Lower, Drumdowney Upper, Gorteens, Grogan, Kilmurry, Nicholastown, Rathpatrick, Scartnamoe, Tinvaucosh and Treanaree in County Kilkenny.**

Dear Sir/ Madam

We act on behalf of Drumdowney Solar Farm Limited who are applying to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a 10-year planning permission for a substation and associated loop-in / loop out grid connection into an existing 110kV overhead transmission line (including underground 110kV cabling, 2 No. new interface towers and decommissioning of ca. 15m of existing 110kV overhead line) at Rathpatrick (townland), County Kilkenny.

## 01. Development Context

The purpose of the proposed development is to transport the electricity generated at the proposed Drumdowney Solar Farm<sup>1</sup> to the national grid via the existing overhead lines that traverse this site. Early in the project development phase, it was identified that the proposed substation and grid connection may constitute 'strategic infrastructure development' having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 and established case precedent on such matters. The Act provides that applications for permission/approval for specified private and public strategic infrastructure developments be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The applicant entered into pre-application consultations with An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025. An Coimisiún confirmed their opinion that the proposed development meets the definition of 'strategic infrastructure development' as defined in the legislation by means of a formal notice dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The subject application is made pursuant to this determination.

## 02. Submission Requirements

As requested, 2 no. hard copies and 8 electronic copies of the application are enclosed. A digital copy of the application boundary is also provided separately. Details of the proposed application are also available to view at the following website: [www.drumdowneysubstation.ie](http://www.drumdowneysubstation.ie)

The relevant planning application fee of €100,000 was transferred to An Coimisiún Pleanála on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Evidence of this EFT is enclosed with this letter to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

A schedule of application documentation and schedule of drawings is also appended for reference.

## 03. Notification to Kilkenny County Council & Prescribed Bodies

In the correspondence dated the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025, An Coimisiún Pleanála issued a list of prescribed bodies to be notified as part of the application. 1 no. hard copies and an electronic copy of the application have been issued to Kilkenny County Council following confirmation of their requirements. All of the other prescribed bodies were contacted to confirm the format in which they wanted to receive the application. We can confirm that all relevant copies of the application were issued to these bodies on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

A full list of the notified bodies is provided as follows:

Ref	Body	Notification Date	Application Format
01	Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.

<sup>1</sup> Case is under consideration of Kilkenny County Council under Reg. Ref. 25/60391

02	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
03	Chief Executive, Kilkenny County Council <sup>2</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	1 no. hard copies and 1 no. digital copy (via emailed link)
04	Commission for the Regulation of Utilities	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
05	EirGrid	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
06	ESB	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
07	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
08	National Monuments Service	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
09	Office of Public Works	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
10	Heritage Council	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
11	National Parks and Wildlife Service	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
12	Uisce Éireann	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.

<sup>2</sup> The correspondence issued 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 identified Tipperary County Council as the prescribed local authority. It was confirmed with An Coimisiún Pleanála that this was a typographical error.

13	Inland Fisheries Ireland	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
14	An Taisce	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.
15	Health Service Executive	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Electronic copy by email and via post.

We trust the enclosed information is sufficient to allow An Coimisiún Pleanála to process the planning application.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Conor Frehill  
HW Planning

Enclosures

- Schedule of application documentation and drawings;
- Notification letters to Prescribed bodies and Kilkenny County Council;
- Confirmation of EFT.