

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage,  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,  
Newtown Road,  
Carricklawn,  
Wexford  
Y35 AP90

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

HW Planning  
5 Joyce House,  
Barrack Square,  
Ballincollig,  
Cork  
P31 KP84

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Directors:  
Harold Walsh  
Conor Frehill

Company Reg. No.  
486211

Accreditations  
ISO 9001:2015  
ISO 14001:2015  
ISO 45001:2018

**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.

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.

Following pre-application consultations under Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), we have been directed by An Coimisiún Pleanála to notify you of this application in advance of lodgement, and to provide you with a copy of same.

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



You have informed us that your preferred method of receipt is a link to the project website. Details of the proposed application are also available to view at the following website:  
[www.drumdownesubstation.ie](http://www.drumdownesubstation.ie).

If you require any further copies of the application please contact us.

Submissions and observations may be made in writing to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the period of 7 weeks from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to 5.30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 in relation to the implications of the proposed development for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the likely effects on the environment or the likely adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, if the proposed development is carried out.

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

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Conor Frehill'.

Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment,  
Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment,  
Tom Johnson House,  
Haddington Road  
Dublin  
D04 K7X4

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Conor Frehill'.

Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Chief Executive  
Planning Department  
Kilkenny County Council  
John Street,  
Co. Kilkenny  
R95 A39T

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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Following pre-application consultations under Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), we have been directed by An Coimisiún Pleanála to notify you of this application in advance of lodgement, and to provide you with a copy of same. You have confirmed you require 1 no. hard copies and 1 no. digital copy (via digital upload) of the application in question. Details of the proposed application are available to view at the following website: [www.drumdowneysubstation.ie](http://www.drumdowneysubstation.ie)

An Coimisiún Pleanála require that the application documentation be made available for public inspection/purchase by Kilkenny County Council in accordance with the terms of the enclosed public

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notice. It is the Commission's intention that all of the application documentation will remain available for public inspection during the currency of the application.

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Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Conor Frehill'.

Conor Frehill

**HW Planning**

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

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
EirGrid,  
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road,  
Ballsbridge,  
Dublin 4,  
D04 FW28

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
ESB,  
ESB Head Office,  
27 Fitzwilliam Street Lower,  
Dublin 2  
D02 KT92

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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5 Joyce House,  
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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland,  
Parkgate Business Centre,  
Parkgate Street,  
Dublin 8,  
D08 DK10

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**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
The National Monuments Service,  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,  
Room G50, Custom House,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 W6X0

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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**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**

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Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conor Frehill', written in a cursive style.

Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
The Office of Public Works,  
Jonathan Swift Street,  
Trim,  
Meath.  
C15 NX36

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

HW Planning  
5 Joyce House,  
Barrack Square,  
Ballincollig,  
Cork  
P31 KP84

[www.hwplanning.ie](http://www.hwplanning.ie)  
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Directors:  
Harold Walsh  
Conor Frehill

Company Reg. No.  
486211

Accreditations  
ISO 9001:2015  
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Yours Sincerely

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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
The Heritage Council,  
Áras na hOidhreachta,  
Church Lane,  
Kilkenny  
R95 X264

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

HW Planning  
5 Joyce House,  
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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
National Parks and Wildlife Service,  
90 King Street North,  
Dublin 7,  
Dublin  
D07 N7CV

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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5 Joyce House,  
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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
Uisce Éireann,  
Blackwater House,  
Mallow Business Park,  
Mallow,  
Co. Cork

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

HW Planning  
5 Joyce House,  
Barrack Square,  
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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
Inland Fisheries Ireland,  
Sunnyside House,  
Co. Cork  
P12 X602

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

HW Planning  
5 Joyce House,  
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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

The Secretary,  
An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland,  
Tailor's Hall,  
Back Lane,  
Dublin.  
D08 X2A3

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

HW Planning  
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Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**

Health Service Executive,  
National Business Service Unit,  
National Environmental Health Service,  
HSE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Oak House,  
Millenium Park, Naas,  
Co. Kildare, W91KDC2

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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ISO 14001:2015  
ISO 45001:2018

**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.

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.

Following pre-application consultations under Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), we have been directed by An Coimisiún Pleanála to notify you of this application in advance of lodgement, and to provide you with a copy of same.

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



You have informed us that your preferred method of receipt is a link to the project website. Details of the proposed application are also available to view at the following website: [www.drumdownesubstation.ie](http://www.drumdownesubstation.ie).

If you require any further copies of the application please contact us.

Submissions and observations may be made in writing to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the period of 7 weeks from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to 5.30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 in relation to the implications of the proposed development for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the likely effects on the environment or the likely adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, if the proposed development is carried out.

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

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conor Frehill', written in a cursive style.

Conor Frehill  
**HW Planning**