

Honor Caird Marren

From: Communications
Sent: Friday 3 July 2026 16:53
To: Marine
Subject: FW: ACP-323985-25 - Development at Rathpatrick (townland), County Kilkenny.
Attachments: 260703_Ltr_DrumdowneySID_LetterofNon-Determination_MMCLCF01.pdf

Categories: Honor Case

From: Luke Cuddihy | HW Planning <LCuddihy@hwplanning.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2026 16:22
To: Appeals2 <appeals@pleanala.ie>; Bord <bord@pleanala.ie>
Cc: Conor Frehill | HW Planning <cfrehill@hwplanning.ie>
Subject: ACP-323985-25 - Development at Rathpatrick (townland), County Kilkenny.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We act on behalf of Drumdowney Solar Farm Limited, who are the Applicants for the above referenced development which is currently subject of an application for development approval under s182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

We have been asked by the Applicant to submit the attached letter to An Coimisiun Pleanála for consideration following on from receipt correspondence received regarding the decision date for the above application.

Kind Regards,
Luke

Kind Regards,

Luke Cuddihy
Planning Consultant

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The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
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3rd July 2026

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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 write on behalf of Drumdowney Solar Farm Limited, who are the Applicants for the above referenced development which is currently the subject of an application for development approval under s182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

We note the correspondence received from An Coimisiún Pleanála, dated the 1st July 2026, which advises of the delay in determining this application beyond its original decision date of the 30th June 2026. We note also the commitment of An Coimisiún to determine the application in advance of a new target decision date of the 26th January 2027. It is respectfully requested by the Applicant, as suggested by An Coimisiún in its correspondence, that every step is indeed taken to ensure a decision is made before this date. The urgency in this matter is informed by the following considerations:

- As enshrined clearly in government policy, there is a critical need for decisive action to deliver such projects to meet Ireland's climate objectives which have a statutory basis under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. It is clear that Ireland is set to fail to achieve its 2030 climate and renewable targets¹, having already failed to achieve its 2020 targets. Ireland's position in relation to climate action and energy security is unstable, with the latter point underlined very recently by intense price volatility, high import dependency, and

¹ 51 per cent carbon emissions reductions target by 2030.