

The Secretary,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

21/04/2026

Re: Request under Section 182E of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended to enter into consultation in relation to works at the existing Barrymore substation, Co. Cork, as follows:

Barrymore 110 kV Busbar and new 110/38kV Transformer (EirGrid Ref. CP1490)

Dear Secretary,

EirGrid plc, the prospective applicant, wishes to enter into consultation with An Bord Pleanála under Section 182E of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended in relation to works at the existing Barrymore substation, Co. Cork the uprating of the following circuits:

Barrymore 110 kV Busbar and new 110/38kV Transformer (EirGrid Ref. CP1490)

Barrymore 110 kV is a “Tee” station on the Knockraha - Barrymore - Cahir 110 kV circuit, with no 110 kV busbar and only a single 110/38 kV transformer. Barrymore’s Tee station arrangement limits EirGrid’s ability to perform essential maintenance, repair and uprates on the 110 kV circuits at Barrymore. This Teed arrangement is in violation of the EirGrid Transmission System Security and Planning Standards (TSSPS) because normal operation is inhibited by the requirements of the distribution network fed from Barrymore.

Since Barrymore station and surrounding network at Barrymore, is in breach of these standards the issue must be addressed. A solution has been identified and that is this project CP1490. The works are essentially an extension of the existing hardstanding area with additional electrical infrastructure.

The development location and descriptions are described in Section 2.0 and in more detail in Enclosure A.

It is EirGrid's initial consideration that the proposed development do not constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development, having regard to the extensive precedent for such consideration established by the Coimisiún - this is set out below in Section 4.0. However, this is of course a matter for the Coimisiún to conclude.

In either scenario, it is requested that the Coimisiún provides advice as to whether or not the proposed development is Strategic Infrastructure Development in accordance with the provisions of Section 182A of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended or whether an application for permission should be made to the local authorities for the respective area in accordance with the provisions of Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, namely County Cork.

1.0 Details of the Prospective Applicant

The following are the details of the Prospective Applicant:

Table 1: Details of the Prospective Applicant	
No.	Detail
Name	EirGrid plc,
Address	The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28
Telephone	+353 (1) 677 1700
Email	info@eirgrid.ie
Website	www.eirgrid.com

The details of the named person acting on behalf of EirGrid are provided below. All correspondence should be directed to the named person.

Table 2: Details of named person acting on behalf of the Prospective Applicant	
No.	Detail
Name	Fay Lagan
Address	The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28
Telephone	+ 353 (0)86 169 3949
Email	Fay.Lagan@eirgrid.com

2.0 Development Description and Location

The following briefly identifies the development description and location. A comprehensive summary is provided in Enclosure A:

Barrymore 110 kV Busbar and new 110/38kV Transformer (EirGrid Ref. CP1490)

Barrymore 110 kV is a "Tee" station on the Knockraha - Barrymore - Cahir 110 kV circuit. It is located in the townland of Kill-Saint-Anne North, County Cork,

approximately 1.5 km north west of Castlelyons and approximately 4.5 km south east of Fermoy. It is proposed to extend the existing fence line boundary to the west, east, and south of the existing substation, extending the existing hardstanding area within land already owned by ESB. It is proposed to construct a new 4 plus 2 bay C-type AIS 110 kV busbar in Barrymore along with the installation of an additional 110/38 kV transformer and includes any necessary extension of the control room. The station will be laid out with circuit breakers and disconnects installed as the first 6 bay of an eventual 8 bay AIS 110 kV Extended Ring busbar.

3.0 Legal Interest

EirGrid plc is the licensed Transmission System Operator for Ireland pursuant to the provisions of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999. Pursuant to the provisions of S.I. No. 445/2000, EirGrid plc has the exclusive function to operate and ensure the maintenance of and, if necessary, develop a safe secure, reliable electricity transmission system.

The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) is the licensed Transmission Asset Owner for Ireland pursuant to Section 14 of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999. The role of the ESB is to ensure that the transmission system is developed in accordance with the requirements set down by EirGrid. The proposed transmission infrastructure will be constructed by the ESB pursuant to its statutory powers. EirGrid, the prospective applicant, does not have a beneficial interest in any lands.

4.0 Statement on Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID)

The drivers for this project are as follows:

- **Bring Barrymore 110 kV station into Compliance with the Transmission System Security and Planning Standards (TSSPS):** The benefit of CP1490 is that after it is complete, EirGrid will be able to more easily schedule outages to allow maintenance, repair, reinforcement and uprate works on the local transmission network. This will allow future transmission works to be completed more quickly and more easily than is the case at present. This will bring the station and local network up to transmission standards.
- **Efficient use of Project CP1320¹ to Optimise Planning Permission submission for Overhead Line works:** There is a separate project CP1320 to uprate the Cahir - Barrymore - Knockraha 110 kV circuit. For efficiency and to make the best use of time, the planning permission

¹ Approved by Cork County Council (Ref 246468) on 21/11/2025 and by ACP (Ref 500122 – appeal on section of project in County Tipperary) on 4/3/2026.

submission of CP1320 (uprate of the Cahir Barrymore Knockraha 110 kV circuit) will include the planning permission submission for some overhead line works for CP1490.

EirGrid considers that, given the nature, scale and function of the proposed development on the transmission network, and given that the projects relate to an existing substation, and having regard to Section 37(A)(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the proposed development does not comprise Strategic Infrastructure Development.

In forming this opinion, EirGrid is relying on several previous cases of a similar nature, namely:

Table 3: Details of previous cases of a similar nature relating existing substations

Ref	County	Description	Decision	Date
VC0040	Fingal	Redevelopment of the existing 220 kV Finglas Electrical Substation	29/01/2010	VC0040
VC0055	Clare	Redevelopment of the existing 400 kV Moneypoint Electrical Substation	27/01/2011	VC0055
VC0061	Clare	Redevelopment of the existing 110 kV Ardnacrusha Electrical Substation;	02/12/2011	VC0061
VC0070	Dublin	New Reactors at existing Poolbeg 220/110 kV Electrical Substation	24/10/2013	VC0070
VC0101	Dublin	Redevelopment of the existing 220 kV Inchicore Electrical Substation	16/11/2016	VC0101
VC0110	Galway	Redevelopment of the existing 110 kV Galway Electrical Substation	10/11/2017	VC0110
300928	Cork	Redevelopment of the existing 110 kV Kilbarry Electrical Substation	30/4/2018	300928
301174	Cork, Kerry and Tipp	New STATCOM devices at three existing electrical substation sites	17/05/2018	301174
VC0109	Kerry	New Reactor at the existing Knockanure 220 kV Electrical Substation	10/11/2017	VC0109
306908	Kerry	Proposed development of a 110kV control room at the existing Trien 220/110 kV electricity substation and all associated site works	18/06/2020	306908
303148	Kildare, Clare and Galway	Installation of series capacitors at three existing 400 kV electrical substations	20/02/2019	303148
311950	Mayo	Modification and upgrade of the Dalton 110 kV Station	21/12/2021	311950
313964	Kildare	Proposed redevelopment of the existing Maynooth 220 kV / 110 kV electrical substation	18/07/2022	313964
313931	Offaly	Upgrading of the existing Derryiron 110 kV electrical substation	18/07/2022	313931
314111	Meath	Upgrading of the existing Woodland 400/200 kV electrical substation	25/08/2022	314111

Table 3: Details of previous cases of a similar nature relating existing substations

3145	Fingal	Proposed upgrade of the existing Belcamp 220 kV electrical substation	24/01/2023	3145
314767	Dublin	Upgrading of existing Poolbeg 220kV Substation	04/04/2023	314767

5.0 Conclusion

The prospective applicant requests the Coimisiún give written advice as to whether or not the proposed development is Strategic Infrastructure Development in accordance with the provisions of Section 182A of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

Given the strategic importance of this transmission infrastructure project, EirGrid requests the Coimisiún to consider this pre-application consultation request at its earliest convenience. EirGrid will ensure that appropriate personnel will be available to meet with the Coimisiún at any time, should this be required, in order to ensure timely engagement on this project.

An Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) for the appropriate fee of €4,500.00 will be issued by EirGrid to An Coimisiún Pleanála shortly; if there is issue verifying this please contact the undersigned.

Should the Coimisiún have any queries in respect of the documentation, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,



Fay Lagan

Planning and Environmental Unit

EirGrid

fay.lagan@eirgrid.com

Enclosures:

A - Description of the Development and Maps

Enclosure A

Description of the Development and Maps

This request relates to the proposed works at the existing Barrymore substation.



Figure 2. Geographical location of Barrymore 110kV station

Development Description

CP1490 involves the construction of a new 4 plus 2 bay C type AIS 110 kV busbar with space for a sectionaliser on the existing Barrymore 110 kV site and the installation of a second 110/38 kV transformer. The works include

- Construction of the new a new 4 plus 2 bay C-type AIS 110 kV busbar with space for a sectionaliser on the existing Barrymore 110 kV site.
- Decommissioning of Barrymore Cahir/Knockraha T141 bay.
- Completion of the 110 kV circuit connections for the 110 kV loop in.
- Installation of a new 110/38 kV transformer.
- Any necessary adjustments/extensions to the control room.
- Partial extension of the existing palisade fence surrounding the existing station compound.

The existing palisade fencing will be extended by approximately 22m along part of the eastern boundary; by approximately 4.3m along the southern boundary; and by approximately 6.2m along part of the western boundary. The proposed CP1420 works will not include any new electrical towers. These will be provided as part of a separate project already approved by Cork County Council.

The Best Performing Option Report confirms the need for a new 4 plus 2 bay C-type AIS 110 kV busbar in Barrymore substation along with the installation of an additional 110/38 kV transformer and includes any necessary extension of the control room. The station will be laid out with circuit breakers and disconnects installed. This is shown in the enclosed figures below - the new build is shown in green and equipment to be retired is shown in orange.

The proposed new Barrymore station will be looped in via two 110 kV circuits, namely Cahir - Barrymore and Knockraha - Barrymore. The construction of the loop in towers and alignment of the circuits into Barrymore have been undertaken as part of another project CP1320, the uprate of the Cahir-Barrymore-Knockraha 110 kV Circuit (approved by Cork County Council (Ref 246468) on 21/11/2025 and by ACP (Ref 500122 - appeal on section of project in County Tipperary) on 4/3/2026).

In summary, CP1490 will bring the transmission network back into compliance with the TSSPS. This will mean that in the future, EirGrid will be able to schedule outages for transmission works on the local 110 kV transmission circuits without the restrictions imposed by difficulties on the distribution network. CP1490 will also provide the spare 110 kV bays that can allow renewable generators to connect to the electricity network.

Development Location

Barrymore 110 kV is a substation on the existing Knockraha - Barrymore - Cahir 110 kV circuit. It is located in the townland of Kill-Saint-Anne North, County Cork, approximately 1.5 km north west of Castlelyons and approximately 4.5 km south east of Fermoy.

The closest European site to the Development is Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 0021701) which is approximately 2.7km away ('as the crow flies'). The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC comprise a range of Annex I habitats, a range of fish, white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, otter *Lutra lutra* and Killarney fern *Trichomanes speciosum*. There are no waterbodies surrounding the substation, and therefore likely significant effects from the Development on Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC, or any other European site, regarding water quality are excluded.

Blackwater Callows Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 0040942) is located approximately 5.3km from the Development. The SPA is designated for the mobile Special Conservation interest (SCI) species whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* and various waterbirds and wetland habitat.

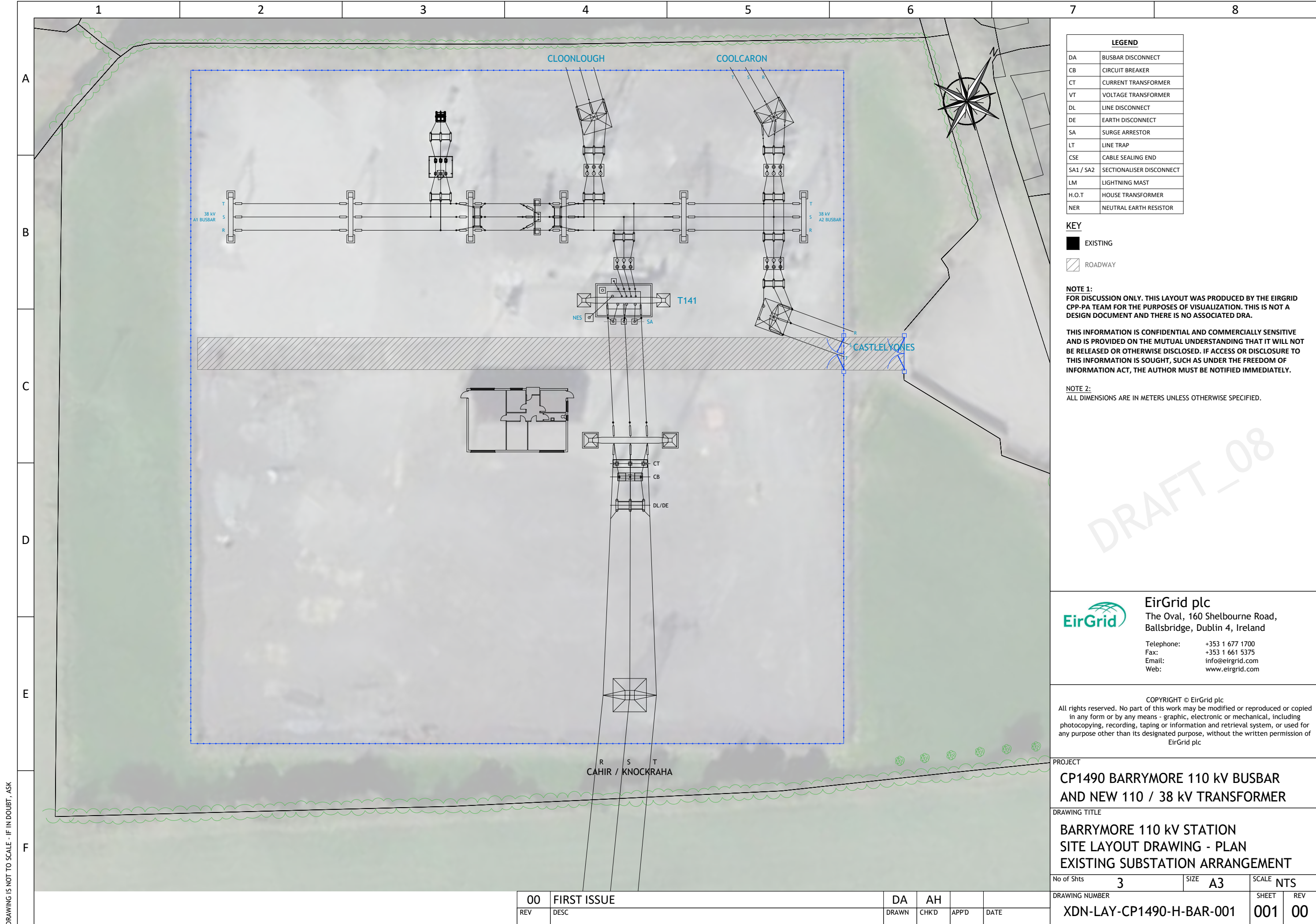
There is no potential for likely significant effects on mobile SCI associated with Blackwater Callows SPA because there is no suitable habitat for waterbirds near the Development.

Moreover, whooper swan have a core foraging range of less than 5km, and the Development is located beyond the core range of this SCI species.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, EirGrid has made a Determination following Screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the project individually or in-combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites can be excluded on the basis of objective evidence.

This Determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the Development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.



DRAWING IS NOT TO SCALE - IF IN DOUBT, ASK

