



APPENDIX 2-4

**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
2015 PRE-PLANNING ENQUIRY
(PP4516)**

Evelyn Sikora

From: PAUL KELLY <PAUL.KELLY@DONEGALCOCO.IE>
Sent: 09 September 2015 12:31
To: Mark Whittaker
Cc: ANNE MELLY; EUNAN QUINN; SHARON Mc MORRAN
Subject: PP4516 - Glenard Wind Farm Proposal

Categories: Red category

Dear Mr. Whittaker,

I refer to the subject pre-planning enquiry and wish to confirm that the Planning Authority has now had the opportunity to afford pre-planning consideration to same. I wish to advise as follows:

- 1) The subject site is located within an area designated as being 'Open to consideration' for appropriate windfarm development in the County Development Plan, 2012-2018 (as varied). Accordingly the principle of development is acceptable.
- 2) The area of the subject site is one generally considered by the Planning Authority to have potential in principle for further wind farm development. This is due, inter alia, to: the robust nature of the landscape within the interior of the peninsula; the low density of rural dwellings; the proximity of connecting infrastructure and the separation from designated areas of Especially High Scenic Amenity and Natura 2000 sites. Accordingly the proposal is considered worthy in principle of further consideration.
- 3) Notwithstanding the fact that the site is not within or adjoining a Natura 2000 sites, there are designated Natura 2000 sites within the wider vicinity of the site; these include (but not solely): Lough Foyle SPA (004087), Lough Swilly SPA (004075), Lough Swilly SAC (002287) and in addition to these Natura 2000 sites are National Heritage Areas (NHA) at Camowen River Bog (002405), Illies Hill Bog (001127), Magheradrumman Bog (000168) and Slieve Snaght Bog (002322). Planning history and previous studies have shown interaction between the Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly SPA's particularly with over-wintering and breeding birds. The potential impacts of this windfarm (itself and cumulatively) on these Natura 2000 sites will need to be considered particularly in a transboundary context.
- 4) It is considered that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment by the Planning Authority is likely to be necessary.
- 5) It is considered that even if the development is itself sub-threshold, that the issue of a cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment arises. There is the possibility that this application may give rise to significant environmental effects in a transboundary state (Northern Ireland) and that, therefore, transboundary procedures may need to be followed.
- 6) City of Derry Airport have taken an interest in applications for wind farm development(s) in this locality in recent times due to potential impacts on approved flight paths/approaches/missed descents etc. Liaison with the operations manager of the Airport, the Irish Aviation Authority and the Civil Aviation Authority is therefore recommended. It is likely that the Planning Authority would consult with the airport in respect of any application received.
- 7) Liaison with local roads staff is also recommended in respect of haul routes and potential infrastructural improvements.
- 8) Any application should avoid 'project splitting' and cumulatively consider all aspects of the development, including grid connections particularly in the environmental studies.
- 9) In terms of visuals, no particular visual concerns arise. The Planning Authority would however recommended visuals are taken on the National Primary Road on approach to the village of Bridgend from Letterkenny if the turbines will read on this approach. In addition comprehensive visuals should be presented from local roads L-1731-2, 1721-3, 1381-3, 1781-4, 1781-5 and 1871-3.
- 10) Nothing further occurs at this time.

I trust that this has been of assistance. Please note that this information is given as advice in principle only and is without prejudice to the consideration of any applications which maybe made subsequent to same including the consideration of any submissions received following the statutory consultation processes.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Kelly
A/Senior Executive Planner
Donegal County Council
0749153900

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