

# Moves to play down expectations on cost of living

Ministers may also look at changes and cuts to VAT on energy charges, foodstuffs and living in a way that does not add to inflation.

Leo Varadkar, speaking in the Dáil yesterday, said a package of proposals to tackle the rising cost of living was being worked out by the Government, with further discussions on it today, meeting with the unions and employers this afternoon, a chance to discuss it then.

Mr Varadkar said the difficulty with increasing core social welfare rates was that "a lot of working people aren't on social welfare".

Mr Varadkar said the Government to date were "not... and actions taken by the party leaders met on Monday night, commissioned the Ministers to develop proposals for a package of measures that will allow us to help families with the cost of living," he said.

Officials yesterday, telling them that inflation should begin to ease, having peaked in the last quarter of 2021.

## PLANNING APPLICATION

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021  
Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála  
County Donegal

The development will consist of the following:  
Construction of 15 No. wind turbines and associated hardstand areas with the following parameters:  
a total tip height in the range of 162 metres minimum to 173 metres maximum,  
a rotor diameter in the range of 132 metres minimum to 140 metres maximum,  
a hub height in the range of 96 metres minimum to 107 metres maximum, and  
1 no. 110kV permanent electrical substation including a control building with welfare facilities, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing, all associated underground cabling, wastewater holding tank and all ancillary structures and works;  
cabling within permanent cable ducts in the townlands of Meenynally, Carnamoyle, Some, Owenkillew and Barnahone, Meenakeereagh, Tullydush Upper, Annasee and Ballynahone to the existing Trillick 110kV substation in the townland of Ballynahone;

All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the turbines to the proposed wind farm substation;  
1 no. Meteorological Mast of 104 metres in height;  
Upgrade of existing tracks and roads, provision of new permanent site access roads including a new site entrance (in the townland of Glenard);  
1 no. borrow pit;  
1 no. permanent peat and spoil repository area;

Permanent placement of peat and spoil along sections of site access roads as part of the peat and spoil management plan for the site;  
2 no. temporary construction compounds;  
Permanent recreation and amenity works, including marked trails, seating areas, amenity car park, and associated amenity signage;  
All temporary works associated with the installation of turbine component and abnormal load delivery;

Construction of a permanent link road between the R240 Regional Road and the L1731 local road, construction of a second permanent link road on the L1731; permanent road widening at three locations along the L1731 (in the townlands of Carnamore or Glenknoher and Tullydush Upper, Annasee and Ballynahone);  
Construction of a permanent link road between the R240 Regional Road and the L1731 local road, construction of a second permanent link road on the L1731; permanent road widening at three locations along the L1731 (in the townlands of Carnamore or Glenknoher and Tullydush Upper, Annasee and Ballynahone);

The application is seeking a ten-year planning permission and 35-year turbine operational period from the date of overall commissioning. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies this planning application. The proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment of a Transboundary State i.e., Northern Ireland, an area of the United Kingdom or Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

not later than 5.30 p.m. on the 1st April 2022. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:  
The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent. The subject matter of the submission or observation, and the reasons, consideration and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 27 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers). Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board. The Board may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application (refer to a Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development) at www.pleanala.ie. The Board may in respect of an application for permission decide to:

(a) (i) grant the permission, or  
(ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or  
(iii) grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or  
(b) Refuse permission to grant the permission  
Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100).

A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed on the Board's website (www.pleanala.ie) under the following heading: Legal Notices - Judicial Review Notice. This information is also available on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie



Pat Leahy  
Analysis

Senior Government figures played down suggestions of dramatic measures

The political pressure is growing for further Government action on the cost of living - but there is little consensus on what measures should go and how quickly they should be implemented. The political pressure is growing for further Government action on the cost of living - but there is little consensus on what measures should go and how quickly they should be implemented. The political pressure is growing for further Government action on the cost of living - but there is little consensus on what measures should go and how quickly they should be implemented.

# Pressure for Government action as inflation grows

Finance and Public Expenditure and Public Expenditure on Education and Training are up for grabs, but also because it could actually fuel inflation over the medium term, thus making worse the problem it is supposed to solve.

But sources say there was strong opposition from the Finance and Public Expenditure on Education and Training that the Government would look at further action to "enable people to cope with cost of living increases".

For his part, Taoiseach Michael Martin told his TDs that the Government would look at further action to "enable people to cope with cost of living increases".

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## Energy charges: what are other countries doing to ease the pain?

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