

## Annex 1.3

Limerick City & County Council

08 JUN 2022

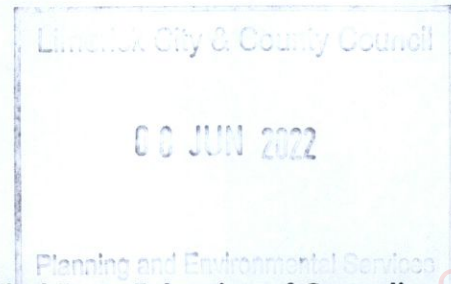
Planning and Environmental Services





[name]  
[address]  
[address]  
[address]  
[address]

14 June 2021



**Re: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life**

To whom it may concern,

The existing operational Knockastanna Wind Farm, located in northeast County Limerick, comprises 4 no. wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, crane hardstands, electricity substation and underground electricity cables; and became operational in 2009. Planning permission for the wind farm was granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2003 for a period of 20-years and will expire in 2023. The wind farm will, therefore, only have been operational for a period of 14-years upon the expiry of planning permission which is a substantially shorter duration than is typical for wind energy developments.

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Should you have any queries relating to the proposed development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Galetech Energy Services & SLR Consulting**

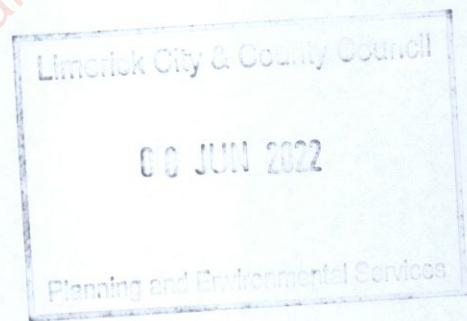




Annex 1 –  
Preliminary Scoping Report



## Annex 1.4





## Paula McCarthy

---

**From:** Henry\_Street\_DV <Henry\_Street\_DV@garda.ie>  
**Sent:** 24 June 2021 11:33  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** FW: HQCSO\_1-275213/21 - Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Ms. McCarthy  
SLR Consulting


**Re: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life**

Relative to the above and below application, the Gardai in the Limerick Division have no objection to this proposed development

Forwarded for your information as requested

**Sent on behalf of  
Gerard J. Roche  
Chief Superintendent**

Noreen Hickey | Clerical Officer | Divisional Office, Henry Street Garda Station, Henry Street, Limerick, Ireland  
Email: [noreen.m.hickey@garda.ie](mailto:noreen.m.hickey@garda.ie) | Tel: + 353 (0) 61 212413 | <http://www.garda.ie/>

 *Le do thoil, cuimhnigh ar an imshaol roimh priontáil an ríomhphost seo. Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail*

Limerick City & County Council

00 JUN 2022

Planning and Environmental Services

**From:** Paula McCarthy [<mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:11  
**To:** Corporate.Services <[Corporate.Services@garda.ie](mailto:Corporate.Services@garda.ie)>  
**Subject:** (External) Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

**This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.**

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Should you have any queries relating to the proposed development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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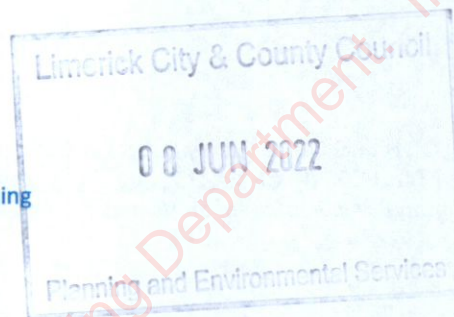


**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

+353 1 296 4667  
00353879230906  
[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

SLR Consulting Ireland  
7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, D14 N2Y7



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President's Award 2020



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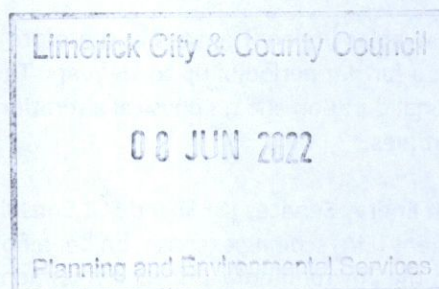
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## Paula McCarthy

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**From:** BCI Info <info@batconservationireland.org>  
**Sent:** 14 June 2021 17:26  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Cc:** Dawn Quinn  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

To whom it may concern:

Bat Conservation Ireland is a small wildlife charity. As a consequence we do not have the administrative capacity to review planning applications.

Please ensure that bat surveys are undertaken according to best practice guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

Bat Conservation Ireland

**From:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:13  
**To:** BCI Info <info@batconservationireland.org>; Dawn Quinn <admin@batconservationireland.org>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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**Galetech Energy Services & SLR Consulting**



and state governments. As a flexible, full-service organisation we are open for business and will continue to operate and deliver advice and services to our clients wherever possible and in line with government guidance.



**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

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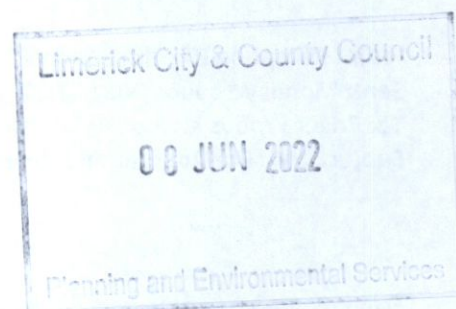


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## Paula McCarthy

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**From:** Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie>  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 09:09  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Hi Paula

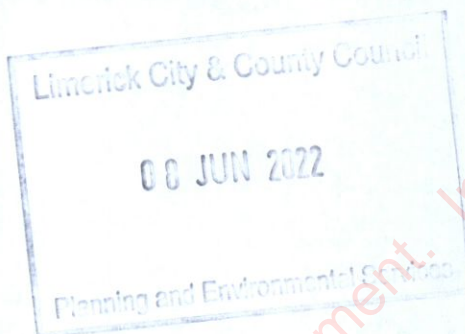
The BAI does not perform an in-depth analysis of the effect of wind turbines on FM networks. However, we are not aware of any issues from existing windfarms into existing FM networks. Also, the proposed windfarms are not located close to any existing or planned FM transmission sites.

Regards

Roger

Senior Executive Engineer  
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland  
2-5 Warrington Place  
Dublin D02 XP29

Tel: 01 6441200  
Fax: 01 6441299



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**From:** Reception BAI <reception@bai.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:22  
**To:** Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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**From:** Paula McCarthy <[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:20  
**To:** Reception BAI <[reception@bai.ie](mailto:reception@bai.ie)>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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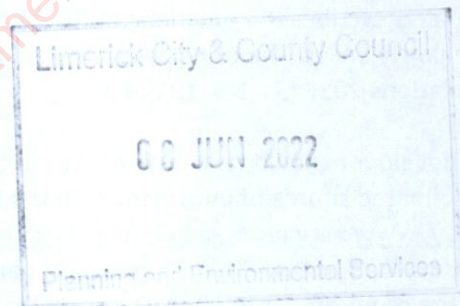


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## Paula McCarthy

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**From:** Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental\_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 09 July 2021 08:54  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Hello

The following are the comments from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling Licence from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Tel: 076-1064459, Web

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/treefelling/treefelling/>

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling;  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/treefelling/FellingReforestationPolicy240517.pdf> As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations, and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices for 2020 are published online at:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment/ia-publicconsultationforafforestationforestroadconstructionandfellinglicences2020/>



3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 28 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decisions for 2020 are published online at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-2020registerofdecisions/>

It is important to note that when applying to a **Local Authority**, or **An Bord Pleanála**, for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
- b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
- c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
  - 1) that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project; and
  - 2) pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.

Kind regards

**An tAonad um Chomhordú Timpeallachta, An Rannóg um Athrú Aeráide agus Beartas Bithfhuinnimh,**  
**Environmental Co-ordination Unit | Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy Division |**

**An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara**

*Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*

**Paillíún A, Páirc Gnó Grattan, Bóthar Átha Cliath, Port Laoise, Co Laoise, R32 K857**

Pavilion A, Grattan Business Park, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 K857

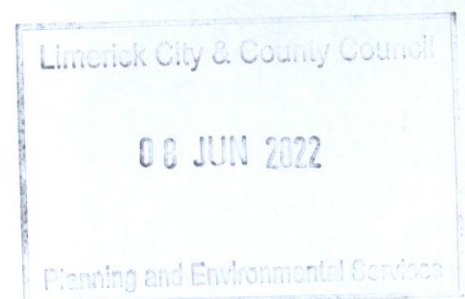
T +353 (0)57 868 9915 [environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie)

[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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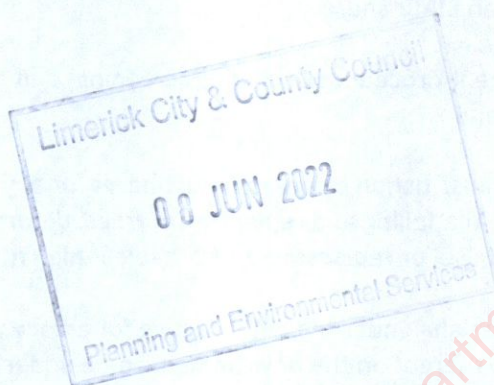




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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolais san ríomhphost seo, agus in aon ceanglái leis, faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún agus le h-aghaidh an seolai amháin. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an seoladh seo bheith faoi phribhléid profisiúnta nó dlíthiúil. Mura tusa an seolai a bhí beartaithe leis an ríomhphost seo a fháil, tá cosc air, nó aon chuid de, a úsáid, a chóipeál, nó a scaoileadh. Má tháinig sé chugat de bharr dearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil.





## Paula McCarthy

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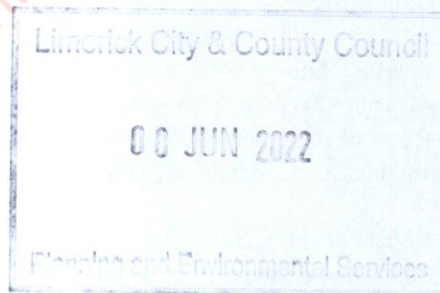
**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 01 July 2021 13:00  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Cc:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** Reply from DECC re : EIS 21/218 Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life  
**Attachments:** GSI datasets relevant to EIA & SEA\_20210421 (1).pdf; 21\_218 Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life.pdf

Good afternoon Paula,

Please see attached and below a reply from Erin Leahy and Dr. Clare Glanville (Senior Geologist) on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland (a division of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) for the subject below. Please forward an acknowledgement of receipt to [CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie) at your earliest convenience.

Please note that the contact address for the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications where this Department is a statutory consultee for environmental/planning notices is [CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie)

Regards,  
Enda Brady,  
Corporate Support Unit,  
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.  
087 623 7714



---

**From:** GSI Planning  
**Sent:** 01 July 2021 09:11  
**To:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Cc:** GSI Planning; Clare Glanville; Trish Smullen; Erin Leahy  
**Subject:** EIS 21/218 Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Good morning,  
Please see attached for return to SLR Consulting.  
Kind regards,  
Erin Leahy

---

**From:** Customer Service  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 10:13  
**To:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Cc:** Customer Service  
**Subject:** FW: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Hi everyone,

A scoping request for you.

Alison



**From:** Paula McCarthy [mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com]  
**Sent:** 14 June 2021 17:21  
**To:** Customer Service  
**Cc:** Renewableenergy info  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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To whom it may concern,

The existing operational Knockastanna Wind Farm, located in northeast County Limerick, comprises 4 no. wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, crane hardstands, electricity substation and underground electricity cables; and became operational in 2009. Planning permission for the wind farm was granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2003 for a period of 20-years and will expire in 2023. The wind farm will, therefore, only have been operational for a period of 14-years upon the expiry of planning permission which is a substantially shorter duration than is typical for wind energy developments.

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As part of this scoping assessment, and in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive, GES & SLR endeavour to engage all stakeholders at an early stage in order to allow for a more focused consideration of any likely significant environmental effects. Should you have any comments on the proposed development in respect of your specific area of competence, we would be grateful if you could send them to us by **9 July 2021**. Feedback can be sent by post to Paula McCarthy at the above address (SLR Consulting) or by email to [pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com).

Should you have any queries relating to the proposed development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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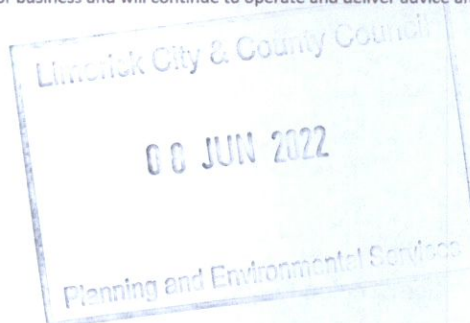


**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

+353 1 296 4667  
00353879230906  
[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

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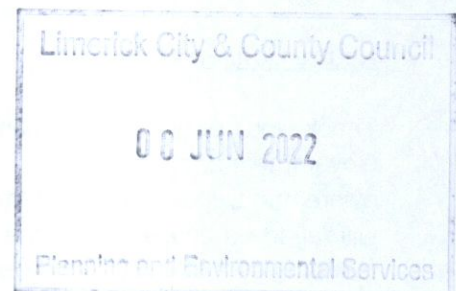
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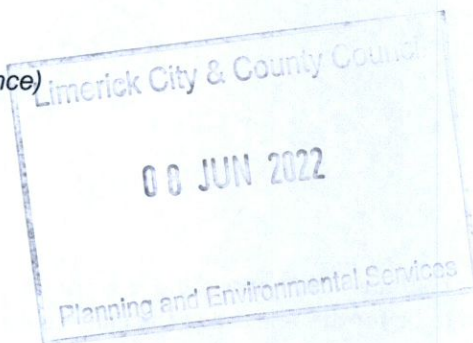


Our Ref: **G Pre00180/2021**

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Paula McCarthy  
SLR Consulting  
7 Dundrum Business Park,  
Windy Arbour,  
Dublin,  
D14 N2Y7



Via email: [pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

**Re: EIS Scoping by Galetech Energy Services (GES) and SLR Consulting (SLR) for proposed development (Knockastanna Wind Farm) which will solely comprise of an increased operational duration. No physical alterations or modifications are proposed to any infrastructure, including the wind turbines 6km north of the village of Doon, County Limerick, and c. 26km west of Thurles, County Tipperary**

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are Nature Conservation observations/recommendations of the Department.

#### **Nature Conservation**

Thank you for your correspondence of 14-06-21. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage welcomes such consultation at this early stage. As you will be aware, the Department is not the consent authority in relation to the proposed works which will fall to be consented by the relevant planning authority. The Department's role in this matter is as a statutory consultee in any forthcoming planning process in relation to nature conservation interests.

The Department notes that this development is located within the Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains Special Protection Area (SPA) (Site Code 004165) and that Hen Harrier is listed as a Special Conservation Interest for this SPA. The Conservation Objective for this site is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species.

Based on information available at present it is this Department's view that a proposed extension of operational life would screen-in for appropriate assessment and will require the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and a full Appropriate Assessment will have to be undertaken by the relevant consent authority as part of the decision making process.





In this regard, the consent authority must be in a position to conclude that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site either individually and in-combination with other plans and projects.

If it cannot be definitively concluded that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site consideration must, in the first instance, be given to alternative solutions which will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site. If following such consideration, there are no such alternative solutions identified, consideration may be given by the relevant planning authority to whether the proposal should proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

This Department is of the view that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) should consider the loss of Hen Harrier habitat, if any that occurred due to the wind farm construction and operation, both in terms of the footprint of the development and any zone of avoidance around the development. This should include an assessment of any deterioration in habitat quality or prey availability around the development. The EIAR and NIS should also consider the likely quality and value of that habitat if it were to become available to Hen Harriers once again. Ecological surveys particularly Hen Harrier surveys carried out prior to the 2003 grant of planning permission and prior to the 2007 construction should be considered in the EIAR and NIS and compared to surveys carried out after construction. Any impacts resulting from the operation of the windfarm should be considered in relation to the Conservation Objectives for the site, in particular any decline in the natural range or the area covered by the species within that range should be considered and the availability of a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the population on a long term basis.

The EIAR and NIS should detail what monitoring of bird usage has taken place at the site since construction and whether regular systematic searching for corpses of birds or bats has taken place on the site and what the results of that have been.

The Department notes that the consultation letter states that the development site was not part of the SPA until 2011, however the Natura 2000 standard data form states that the SPA was designated in March 2007 and the importance of the Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains area for Hen Harriers was identified in the 1998-2000 national survey. The Statutory Instrument (S.I. 587/2011) was signed in 2011 but some protections existed prior to this.

The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority/ies, in her/his role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.





You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at [manager.dau@housing.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@housing.gov.ie), or to the following address:

The Manager  
Development Applications Unit (DAU)  
Government Offices  
Newtown Road  
Wexford  
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

**Sinéad O' Brien**  
Development Applications Unit





## Paula McCarthy

**From:** Customer Service <Customer.Service@tcagsm.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 09:14  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life  
**Attachments:** KST001 F0601010601 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media.pdf

Dear Ms McCarthy,

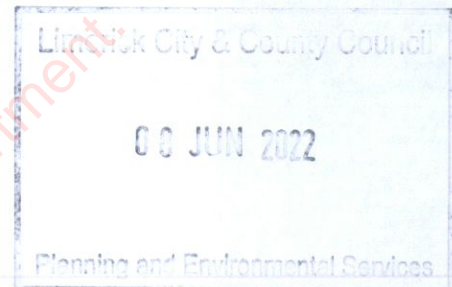
Thanks you for contacting Customer Service.

Due to transfer of functions your query would no longer fall under the remit of our Department but under the Department of Local Government, Housing and Heritage [found here](#).

Kind regards,

**Ashling O'Connor**  
Customer Services

**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**  
The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media  
**23 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath2, D02 TD30**  
23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 TD30



**From:** Paula McCarthy [mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com]  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:21  
**To:** Customer Service <Customer.Service@tcagsm.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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of any likely significant environmental effects. Should you have any comments on the proposed development in respect of your specific area of competence, we would be grateful if you could send them to us by **9 July 2021**. Feedback can be sent by post to Paula McCarthy at the above address (SLR Consulting) or by email to [pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com).

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**Paula McCarthy**

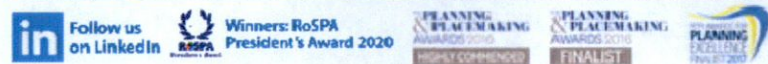
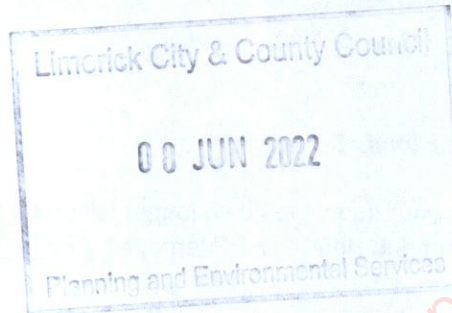
Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

+353 1 296 4667

00353879230906

[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

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7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, D14 N2Y7



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## Paula McCarthy

---

**From:** John Bagnall <john.bagnall@eir.ie>  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 14:29  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Cc:** mobilenetworkstxn@eir.ie  
**Subject:** Re: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Hi Paula

We have no issue with the retention of the four existing turbines and have no network service affected by them going forward.

Kind regards,



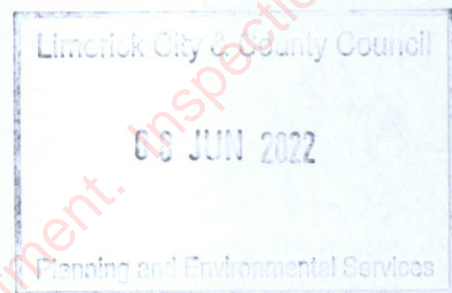
**John Bagnall**

Transmission Design & Engineering

M: +353 85 1053746

E: [john.bagnall@eir.ie](mailto:john.bagnall@eir.ie)

Address: EirCode - D24 HX03



On Mon, 14 Jun 2021 at 17:22, Paula McCarthy <[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

The existing operational Knockastanna Wind Farm, located in northeast County Limerick, comprises 4 no. wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, crane hardstands, electricity substation and underground electricity cables; and became operational in 2009. Planning permission for the wind farm was granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2003 for a period of 20-years and will expire in 2023. The wind farm will, therefore, only have been operational for a period of 14-years upon the expiry of planning permission which is a substantially shorter duration than is typical for wind energy developments.

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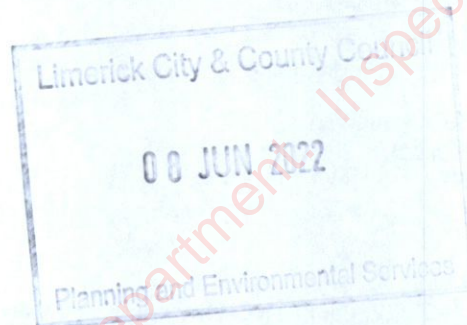


**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

+353 1 296 4667  
00353879230906  
[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

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## Paula McCarthy

---

**From:** Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 10:49  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Hi Paula,

This wind farm won't affect our current network.

Regards,  
Peter

---

**From:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:47 AM  
**To:** Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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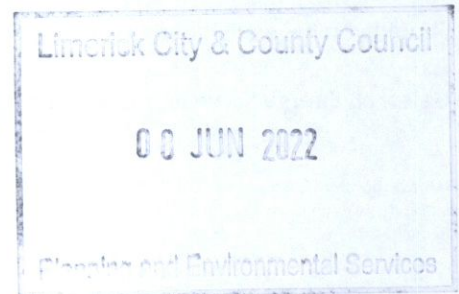
Hi Peter

The Google Earth Location file is attached for the wind farm location.

Co-ords are 52°39'27.94" N 8°12'17.95" W if required.

If you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards  
Paula



---

**From:** Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 08:05  
**To:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Hi Paula,

Can you send a Google Earth kml of the wind farm so that I can review against our network?

Thanks,  
Peter

---

**From:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2021 5:29 PM  
**To:** Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life



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**Paula McCarthy**

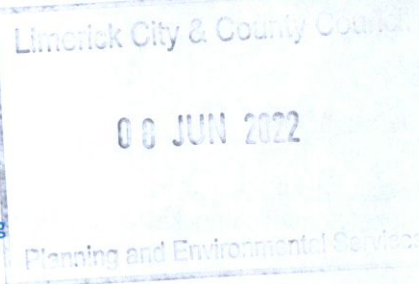
Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

+353 1 296 4667

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[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

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Limerick City & County Council

05 JUN 2022

Planning and Environmental Services



## Paula McCarthy

**From:** planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>  
**Sent:** 01 July 2021 15:15  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life  
**Attachments:** Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines.pdf

Hello Paula,

Thank you for your email regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping exercise for the extension of the operational life of the Knockastanna Wind Farm.

Please see attached the updated copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA, which you may find informative for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

Regards,

Yvonne

### Yvonne Jackson

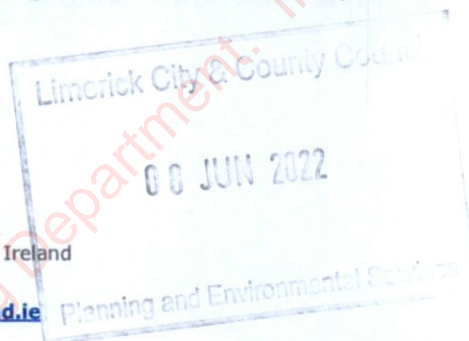
Product Development-Environment & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland  
Áras Fáilte, 88/95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1. D01WR86  
T +353 (0)1 884 7224 | M +353 (0) 860357590 | [www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)



**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority



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**From:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:28  
**To:** planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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To whom it may concern,

The existing operational Knockastanna Wind Farm, located in northeast County Limerick, comprises 4 no. wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, crane hardstands, electricity substation and underground electricity cables; and became operational in 2009. Planning permission for the wind farm was granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2003 for a period of 20-years and will expire in 2023. The wind farm will, therefore, only have been operational for a period of 14-years upon the expiry of planning permission which is a substantially shorter duration than is typical for wind energy developments.

SSE Renewables (Ireland) Limited is, therefore, proposing to extend the operational life of the Knockastanna Wind Farm for a further period of up to 15-years. The proposed development will solely comprise an increased



operational duration and no physical alterations or modifications are proposed to any infrastructure, including the wind turbines.

Galetech Energy Services (GES) and SLR Consulting (SLR) are currently carrying out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping exercise, on behalf of SSE Renewables (Ireland) Limited, in order to assess and confirm the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). A Preliminary Scoping Report is enclosed at **Annex 1** and includes a full description of the proposed development and a set of site location and layout drawings.

As part of this scoping assessment, and in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive, GES & SLR endeavour to engage all stakeholders at an early stage in order to allow for a more focused consideration of any likely significant environmental effects. Should you have any comments on the proposed development in respect of your specific area of competence, we would be grateful if you could send them to us by **9 July 2021**. Feedback can be sent by post to Paula McCarthy at the above address (SLR Consulting) or by email to [pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com).

Should you have any queries relating to the proposed development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Galetech Energy Services & SLR Consulting

**SLR's response to Coronavirus COVID-19** - In response to the ongoing global pandemic, we are actively following the advice provided by our national and state governments. As a flexible, full-service organisation we are open for business and will continue to operate and deliver advice and services to our clients wherever possible and in line with government guidance.

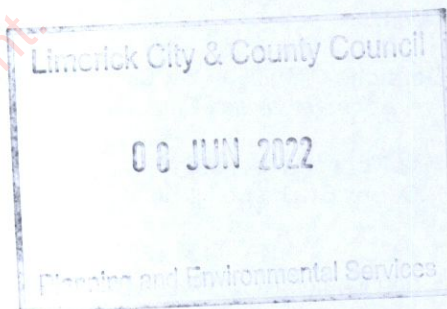


**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

+353 1 296 4667  
00353879230906  
[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

SLR Consulting Ireland  
7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, D14 N2Y7



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## Paula McCarthy

---

**From:** Donncha O'Sullivan <Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie>  
**Sent:** 16 June 2021 10:22  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Cc:** Ray Cummins; Donal O'Caoimh; 'Brendan Creedon'  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Paula,

Without prejudice, as there is no proposal to add further turbines and ancillary equipment to that existing, GNI will not comment on the Scoping Report.

Limerick Co Co / ABP will most likely refer any Planning Application related to your proposal to GNI for comment. All being equal, our reply will mirror the above.

Regards,

Donncha

**Donncha Ó Sullivan BE CEng MIEI MIGEM**  
Development Liaison Engineer

**Gas Networks Ireland**  
P.O. Box 51, Gasworks Road, Cork, Ireland

**T** +353 21 453 4613 | **M** +353 87 982 2437  
**E** [donncha.osullivan@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:donncha.osullivan@gasnetworks.ie)

[gasnetworks.ie](http://gasnetworks.ie) | Find us on [Twitter](#)

***You are reminded that all work in the vicinity of Gas Networks Ireland Pipelines and Installations must be completed to comply fully with the relevant guidelines to be found in the current editions of the Health & Safety Authority publications, 'Code Of Practice For Avoiding Danger From Underground Services' and 'Guide To Safety In Excavations'. Both documents are available free of charge from The Health And Safety Authority. [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie), 1890-28 93 89.***

---

**From:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:28  
**To:** Donncha O'Sullivan <Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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Should you have any queries relating to the proposed development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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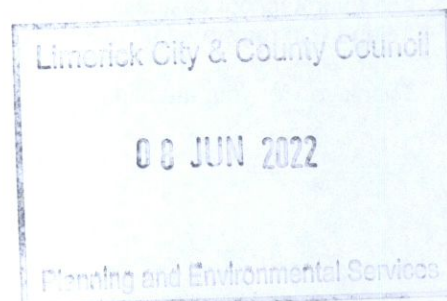


**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

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Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimiscithe agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghníomh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmiscithe na faisnéise seo. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire.

Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdraithe. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtairreachtaí chuig nó ó Líonraí Gáis Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Líonraí Gáis Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Líonraí Gáis Éireann cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, atá corpraithe in Éirinn leis an uimhir chláráithe 555744 agus a tá hoifig chláráithe ag Bóthar na nOibreacha Gáis, Corcaigh, T12 RX96.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.







An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



**Geological Survey**  
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta  
Ireland | Éireann

SLR Consulting  
7 Dundrum Business Park,  
Windy Arbour,  
Dublin  
D14 N2Y7

01 July 2021

**Re: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life**

**Your Ref: N/A**

**Our Ref: 21/218**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science organisation and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your email received on the 14 June 2021, concerning the extension of operational life of the Knockastanna Wind Farm, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter provides more detail on some of these datasets, with particular reference to the proposed development site.

#### **Geoheritage**

Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGSs), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include additional sites that may also be of national importance, but which were not selected as the very best examples for NHA designation. All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS. CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The CGSs for Limerick remain unaudited and as such there is limited detailed information on each site available publicly. The sites are listed in a master list of unaudited sites and are presented on Geological Survey Ireland's [Map Viewer](#) as sites with buffer zones but no specific site boundary. The audit for Co. Tipperary was carried out in 2019. The full report details can be found [here](#). Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the Knockastanna Wind Farm.

#### **Groundwater**

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems.

Geological Survey Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin D04 K7X4, Ireland.

Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann, Tor an Bhacaigh, Bóthar Haddington, Baile Átha Claithe D04 K7X4, Éire.

T +353 (0)1 678 2000 **LoCall / LóGhlao** 1890 44 99 00 [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie) Fáiltítear roimh comhfhreagras i nGaeilge





Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#), which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify **areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface'** in your assessments. The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates the Knockastanna Wind Farm is underlain by a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones'. The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main report is here: <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx>.

#### Geohazards

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.

Landslides are common in areas of peat, rock near surface and in fine to coarse range materials (such as glacial tills), areas which are found within the proposed area/development/ vicinity. Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated [Map Viewer](#). Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.

**The Landslide Events viewer indicates a landslide occurred to the south of the Knockastanna Wind Farm in 1988. The Landslide Susceptibility viewer indicates the area is classed as variable, including areas of High to Moderately High landslide susceptibility.**

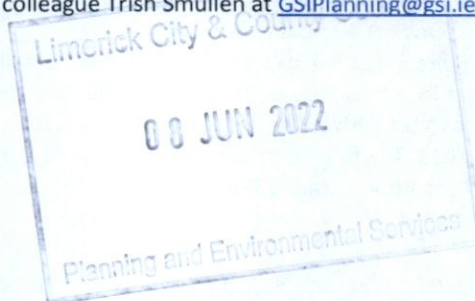
#### Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to Beatriz Mozo, Geological Mapping Unit, at [Beatriz.Mozo@gsi.ie](mailto:Beatriz.Mozo@gsi.ie), 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at [GSIPlanning@gsi.ie](mailto:GSIPlanning@gsi.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Clare Glanville  
Senior Geologist  
Geological Survey Ireland



Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.



## Paula McCarthy

**From:** RAFFERTY Audrey <audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie>  
**Sent:** 21 June 2021 10:19  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** Knockastanna Wind Farm at Co Limerick

Dear Paula

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) Air Navigation Services Division (ANSD) does not get involved in the planning process. The IAA ANSD is to be notified as detailed hereafter:

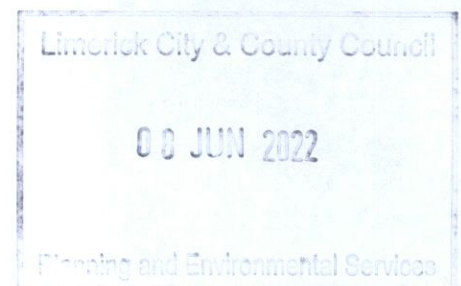
According to [S.I. 215 of 2005, Irish Aviation Authority \(Obstacles to Aircraft in Flight\)](#), the IAA ANSD requires any person who seeks to erect a manmade object to notify the aerodrome operator of the intended operation **at least thirty days** in advance if the structure is to be erected in the vicinity of the aerodrome or the areas around the aerodrome and other protected surfaces associated with the aerodrome. Aerodrome Operators can be contacted via [IAA AIP AD 1.3 INDEX TO AERODROMES AND HELIPORTS](#), to evaluate the impact of the intended operation on the protected airspace established for the aerodrome.

Additionally, any person who seeks to erect a manmade object in excess of 45 metres anywhere within the state above ground or water surface level must also notify the IAA ANSD of the intended crane erection **at least thirty days** in advance, as a crane operating at or above this height may constitute an obstacle to air navigation. The IAA ANSD can be contacted via [airspace@iaa.ie](mailto:airspace@iaa.ie).

The State requires electronic terrain and obstacle data (eTOD) in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) [Annex 15](#) requirements which shall be surveyed by [Ordnance Survey Ireland \(OSI\)](#). The cost of this OSI surveyed data is to be borne by the developer. Additionally, the following data is to be supplied once construction is planned or commenced or available to the airspace team via [airspace@iaa.ie](mailto:airspace@iaa.ie):

- The WGS84 coordinates (In degrees, minutes and seconds) for each turbine?
- Height above ground level (to blade tip) and elevation above mean sea level (to blade tip)?
- Verification if it's a standalone wind farm or is merged with others. Does the wind farm have any alternative names?
- Horizontal extent (rotor diameter) of turbines and blade length where applicable?
- Lighting of the wind farm, which turbine(s) is/are lit, and what type of lighting?

ICAO Light Type	Colour
Low-intensity Type A (fixed obstacle)	Red
Low-intensity Type B (fixed obstacle)	Red
Low-intensity Type C (mobile obstacle)	Yellow/Blue
Low-intensity Type D (follow-me vehicle)	Yellow
Low-intensity Type E	Red
Medium-intensity Type A	White
Medium-intensity Type B	Red
Medium-intensity Type C	Red
High-intensity Type A	White
High-intensity Type B	White



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the airspace team at [airspace@iaa.ie](mailto:airspace@iaa.ie).

Kind regards,

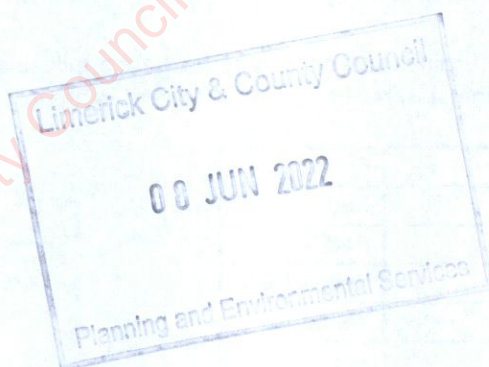


Audrey Rafferty  
Corporate Affairs  
Irish Aviation Authority  
11-12 Dolier Street  
Dublin 2  
01 603 1103



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7 Dundrum Business Park,  
Windy Arbour,  
Co. Dublin

D14 N2Y7

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Uisce Éireann  
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Éire

Irish Water  
PO Box 6000  
Dublin 1  
D01 WA07  
Ireland

T: +353 01 89 25000  
T: +353 01 89 25001  
[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

**Re: EIAR Scoping Request – Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life, County Limerick.**

Dear Paula,

Irish Water (IW) has received notification of your request in respect of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) scoping for the proposed extension of operational life of Knockastanna Wind Farm in Co. Limerick.

Please see attached our suggested scope in relation to Water Services. On receipt of the planning referral, Irish Water will review the EIAR as part of the planning process

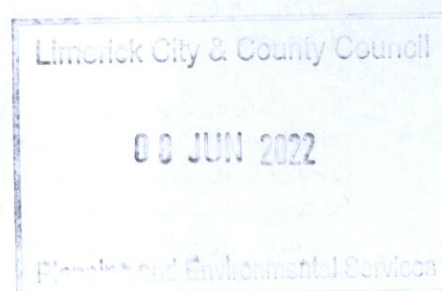
Queries relating to the terms and observations above should be directed to [planning@water.ie](mailto:planning@water.ie)

Yours sincerely,

Signed on behalf of Irish Water:

PP: Ali Robinson

**Yvonne Harris**  
Connections and Development Services





## Response to EIAR Scoping Report Requests

IW currently does not have the capacity to advise on scoping of individual projects. However, in general we would like the following aspects of Water Services to be considered in the scope of an EIAR where relevant;

- a) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development if required). This is confirmed by IW in the form of a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF). If a development will require a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system the developer is advised to submit a Pre Connection Enquiry (PCE) enquiry to IW to determine the feasibility of connection to the Irish Water network. All pre-connection enquiry forms are available from <https://www.water.ie/connections/get-connected/>
- b) Where the development proposal has the potential to impact an IW Drinking Water Source the applicant shall provide details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to IW's Drinking Water Source during construction and operational phases of the development. It is a requirement of the Water Framework Directive that waters used for the abstraction of drinking water are protected so as to avoid deterioration in quality.
- c) Any up-grading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the development.
- d) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an IW collection network
- e) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks & potential measures to minimise/stop surface waters from combined sewers
- f) Any physical impact on IW assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets
- g) If you are considering a development proposal, it is best practice to contact us in advance of designing your proposal to determine the location of public water services assets. Details, where known, can be obtained by emailing an Ordinance Survey map identifying the proposed location of your intended development to [datarequests@water.ie](mailto:datarequests@water.ie). Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within your lands are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site.
- h) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to IW discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion /circulation characterises

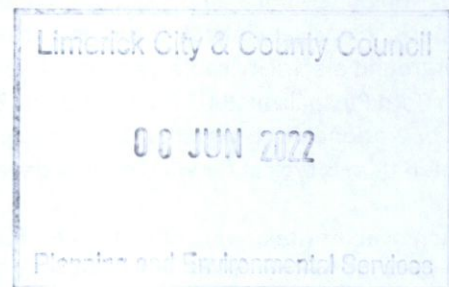


- i) Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source) or the potential of the development to influence/present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by IW for public supply.
- j) Where a development proposes to connect to an IW network and that network **either abstracts water from or discharges waste water to a "protected"/sensitive area**, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site/conservation objectives of the site would be compromised.
- k) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above ensuring a zero risk to any IW drinking water sources (Surface and Ground water).

*This is not an exhaustive list.*

Please note

- The Confirmation of Feasibility from IW, to the applicant, should be issued prior to applying for planning permission.
- Irish Water will not accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks





## Paula McCarthy

---

**From:** Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 10:26  
**To:** Paula McCarthy; windfarms@rte.ie  
**Cc:** Johnny Evans  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Hi Paula,

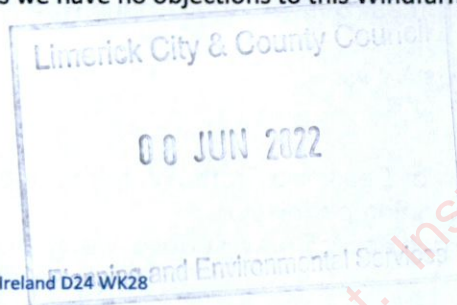
If there are no changes to the existing structures we have no objections to this Windfarm remaining in operation.

Regards

**Matthew Craig**

Project Engineer  
Projects and Coverage Planning  
2RN

Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland D24 WK28  
Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261 Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955



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**From:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** 14 June 2021 17:39  
**To:** windfarms@rte.ie  
**Cc:** Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>; Johnny Evans <Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

To whom it may concern,

The existing operational Knockastanna Wind Farm, located in northeast County Limerick, comprises 4 no. wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, crane hardstands, electricity substation and underground electricity cables; and became operational in 2009. Planning permission for the wind farm was granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2003 for a period of 20-years and will expire in 2023. The wind farm will, therefore, only have been operational for a period of 14-years upon the expiry of planning permission which is a substantially shorter duration than is typical for wind energy developments.

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As part of this scoping assessment, and in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive, GES & SLR endeavour to engage all stakeholders at an early stage in order to allow for a more focused consideration of any likely significant environmental effects. Should you have any comments on the proposed development in



respect of your specific area of competence, we would be grateful if you could send them to us by **9 July 2021**. Feedback can be sent by post to Paula McCarthy at the above address (SLR Consulting) or by email to [pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com).

Should you have any queries relating to the proposed development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

+353 1 296 4667  
00353879230906  
[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

SLR Consulting Ireland  
7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, D14 N2Y7



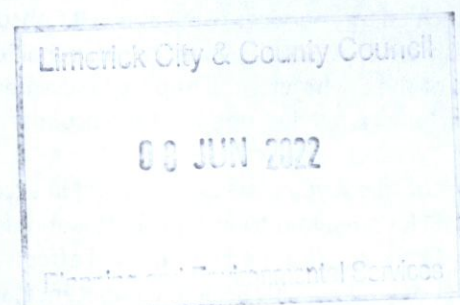
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## Paula McCarthy

**From:** Thomas Barry <Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE>  
**Sent:** 21 June 2021 06:56  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** RE: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Paula,

We anticipate no impact from the development as proposed. Can you ensure the proposal is also reviewed by eir.

Regards,  
Tom

---

**From:** Paula McCarthy [mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com]  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:45  
**To:** Info  
**Cc:** Thomas Barry; Derek Rosarius  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL MAIL:- Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

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00353879230906  
pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com

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7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, D14 N2Y7



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Limerick City & County Council

08 JUN 2022

Planning and Environmental Services



## Paula McCarthy

---

**From:** Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 June 2021 11:23  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Cc:** Sean Kelly; DL Estates ROI  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

Hi Paula,

As this windfarm is live and there are no changes to the turbines 3Ireland will not be affected by the extension.

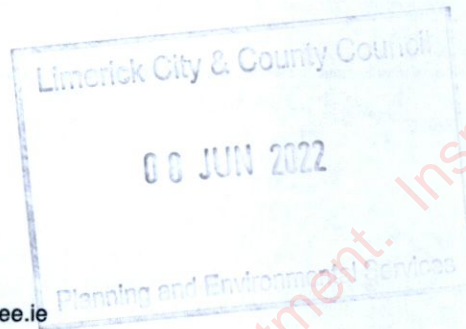
Best regards,

Alister



Alister Cole  
Transmission Engineer

**Mobile:** 086 6024556  
**Email:** Alister.Cole1@three.ie



---

**From:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** 14 June 2021 17:45  
**To:** Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>; anthony.malone@three.ie; Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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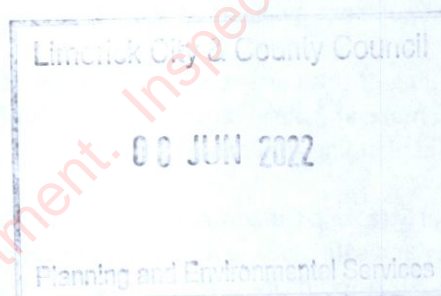


**Paula McCarthy**

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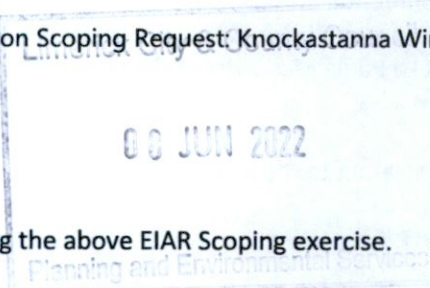
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## Paula McCarthy

---

**From:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Sent:** 24 June 2021 09:00  
**To:** Paula McCarthy  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life



Dear Ms. McCarthy,

Thank you for your email of 14 June 2021 regarding the above EIAR Scoping exercise.

TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at [www.TII.ie](http://www.TII.ie).

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

National Strategic Outcome 2 of the National Planning Framework includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national roads network. It is also an investment priority of the National Development Plan, 2018 – 2027, to ensure that the extensive transport networks which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, accessibility and connectivity to transport users. This requirement is further reflected in the recent publication of the Draft National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

It is acknowledged that the proposed development represents the continuation of use of an established windfarm, however, with respect to EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, inter alia, to the following;

- TII notes that the subject site adjoins the regional and local road network. Access to the road network shall be developed in accordance with official policy and road safety considerations, as outlined above. Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes,
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development,
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads,
- The developer should have regard to any EIAR/EIS and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should in particular have regard to any potential cumulative impacts,
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works),



- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2006),
- The EIAR/EIS should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)),
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. In relation to national roads, TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the NRA/TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed as TII will not be responsible for such costs,
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required,
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network,
- TII recommends that that applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and all structures on the haul route through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal 'weight' load proposed.
- The national road network is managed by a combination of PPP Concessions, Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC) and local road authorities in association with TII.
- The applicant/developer should also consult with all PPP Companies, MMaRC Contractors and road authorities over which the haul route traverses to ascertain any operational requirements such as delivery timetabling, etc. and to ensure that the strategic function of the national road network is safeguarded.
- Additionally, any damage caused to the pavement on the existing national road arising from any temporary works due to the turning movement of abnormal 'length' loads (eg. tearing of the surface course, etc.) shall be rectified in accordance with TII Pavement Standards and details in this regard shall be agreed with the Road Authority prior to the commencement of any development on site.
- Designers should consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required for any of the temporary works proposed. Any recommendations should be incorporated into designs.
- Grid connection and cable routing proposals should be developed to safeguard proposed road schemes as TII will not be responsible for costs associated with future relocation of cable routing where proposals are catered for in an area of a proposed national road scheme. In that regard, consideration should be given to routing options, use of existing crossings, depth of cable laying, etc.
- In the context of the existing national roads network, in accordance with the National Planning Framework National Strategic Outcome no. 2 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility', there is a requirement to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the network. This requirement is further reflected in the National Development Plan, the recent publication of the Draft National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland



and also the existing Statutory Section 28 Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

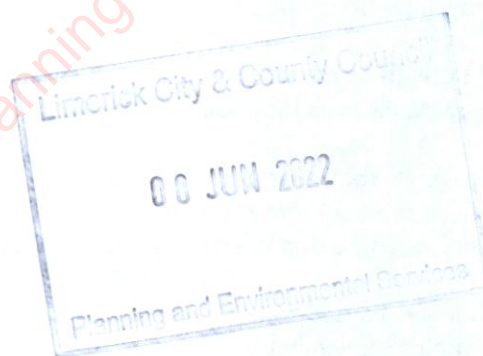
- There is around 99,000km of roads in Ireland, the national road network which caters for strategic inter-urban travel consists of only approx. 5.4% of this. There is a critical requirement to ensure the strategic capacity and safety of this national road network is maintained and significant Government investment already made in the national road network is safeguarded.
- The provision of cabling along the national road network represents a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network and TII is of the opinion that grid connection cable routing should reflect the foregoing provisions of official policy. Therefore, TII advises that grid connection cable routing should seek to utilise the extensive existing local road network, or alternatives, as opposed to the strategic national road network contrary to the provisions of official policy.
- Other consents or licences may be required from the road authority for any trenching or cabling proposals crossing the national road. TII requests referral of all proposals agreed and licensed between the road authority and the applicant which affect the national road network.
- Cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII, any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network.

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I trust that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,

**Alban Mills**  
**Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive**  
**Ref No. TII21-113641**



**From:** Paula McCarthy <pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Monday 14 June 2021 17:45  
**To:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Cc:** Landuse Planning <LandUsePlanning@tii.ie>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Scoping Request: Knockastanna Wind Farm Extension of Operational Life

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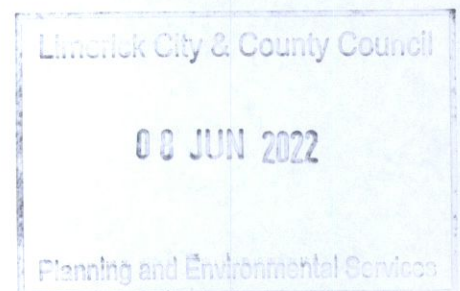


**Paula McCarthy**

Associate Planning & Development Surveyor - Planning

+353 1 296 4667  
00353879230906  
[pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com](mailto:pmccarthy@slrconsulting.com)

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