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**Our Ref:** 10798

10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Your Ref:** 311323-21

The Secretary  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

**RE: Cloghercor Wind Farm – Strategic Infrastructure Development.  
Proposed Development of Cloghercor Wind Farm at Cloghercor, Co. Donegal.**

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of our clients Cloghercor Wind Farm Ltd.,(hereafter referred to as the Applicant), please find enclosed a planning application for a 10-year permission for the proposed construction of a wind energy development (and all associated infrastructure) at a site located 2km south of Doochary in northwest County Donegal .

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála as ‘Strategic Infrastructure Development’ (SID) under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. This position was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála to the applicant on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 following pre-applications consultations with the Board (Case Number – ABP- 311323-21), a copy of the noted correspondence is enclosed with this letter for completeness.

A detailed description of the proposed development is set out in the enclosed public notices and a complete description is set out in the application documents. The application includes an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Natura Impact Assessment. The application may also be viewed at a dedicated website: [www.cloghercorwindfarmplanning.com](http://www.cloghercorwindfarmplanning.com) .

The proposed wind farm site, which extends to approximately 1945 ha, of which approximately 1,027 ha is owned by Coillte, and is located within the townlands of Cloghercor, Clogherachullion and Derryloaghan, Co. Donegal. The proposed grid connection (including the proposed substation and connection masts) is located within the townland of Cloghercor Co. Donegal.

There are a number of locations which require temporary additional works to accommodate oversize load delivery to site (for turbine components). The proposed development, under the current application, includes temporary works at 4 no. locations in the townlands of Drumard, Darney, Cashelreagh Glebe and Aghayeevoge Co. Donegal. A number of other temporary works areas/road widening do not form part of the current application but are part of the proposed project and therefore assessed as part of this EIAR and are located within the townlands of Tullycumber, Cloghercor, Shallogan More, Derryloaghan and Straboy, Co Donegal.

**Directors:** Michael Shelly (Chairman) R.F. Tobin (Managing Director) E. Connaughton (Company Secretary)  
B.J. Downes D. Grehan M. McDonnell C. McGovern  
M.F. Garrick J.P. Kelly

**Associate Directors** B. Carroll M. Casey P. Cloonan P. Cunningham B. Gallagher  
B. Heaney C. Kelly A. Mulligan S. Tinnelly

The proposed development will constitute the provision of:

- Erection of 19 no. wind turbines with an overall blade tip height range from 185m to 200m, a rotor diameter range from 149m to 164m, a hub height range from 112m to 125m, and all associated foundations and hard-standing areas in respect of each turbine;
- Construction of new site entrance with access onto the L6483 local road for the construction phase (operational phase maintenance traffic only), and utilisation of a permitted forest entrance (Pl. Ref. 1951040) to the L6483 as a second entrance to the wind farm for the construction phase;
- Improvements and temporary modifications to 4 no. locations adjacent to the public road to facilitate delivery of abnormal loads and turbine delivery on the R262 and N56 in the townlands of Drumard, Darney, Cashelreagh Glebe and Aghayeevoe, Co. Donegal;
- Construction of an area of temporary hard standing to function as a blade transfer area to facilitate turbine delivery, with associated access to and from the public road R262, in the townland of Drumnacross;
- Construction of 2 no. temporary construction compounds with associated temporary site offices, parking areas and security fencing;
- Installation of 1 no. permanent meteorological mast with a height of 100m;
- 4 no. borrow pits;
- Construction of new internal site access roads and upgrade of existing site roads, to include passing bays and all associated drainage;
- Construction of drainage and sediment control systems;
- Construction of 1 no. permanent 110kV electrical substation including:
  - 1 no. EirGrid control building containing worker welfare facilities and equipment store;
  - 1 no. Independent Power Producer (IPP) control building containing HV switch room, site offices, kitchen facilities, storeroom and toilet amenities.
  - All electrical plant and infrastructure and grid ancillary services equipment;
  - Parking;
  - Lighting;
  - Security Fencing;
  - Wastewater holding tank;
  - Rainwater harvesting equipment;
  - All associated infrastructure and services including site works and signage;
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed wind farm substation;
- All works associated with the connection of the proposed wind farm to the national electricity grid, which will be via a loop-in 110 kV underground cable connection (approximately 4.1km cable length in underground trenches along approximately 3.36km of site road) to the existing 110kV overhead line in the townland of Cloghercor, Co. Donegal, with 2 no. new 16m and 21m high steel lattice end masts at each interface;
- Removal of 13 no. existing wooden polesets and 1 no. steel lattice angle mast between the 2 no. proposed new interface end masts;
- 2 no. watercourse (stream) crossings on the grid connection route;
- All related site works and ancillary development including berms, landscaping, fencing and soil excavation;
- Forestry felling to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development and any onsite forestry replanting;
- Development of a permanent public car park with seating/picnic tables at the end of the construction phase of the development with a new entrance on the L6483;
- Permanent recreational facilities including marked walking trails along the site access roads, and associated recreation and amenity signage.

A 10-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm is being sought. Given the recent advances in turbine technology, and the anticipated lifespan of wind turbines, this is considered to be the optimal operational life for the proposed development. The duration of this operational life allows the proposed turbines to be used to generate clean renewable energy until they have reached the end of their life, rather than being removed prematurely.

It is proposed to supply the power from the Cloghercor Wind Farm to the Irish electricity network via loop-in 110kV underground cables (approximately 4.1km cable length within approximately 3.36km of internal access roads) to the existing overhead 110kV power line in the townland of Cloghercor, Co. Donegal. Two new steel lattice end masts will be required in the townland of Cloghercor to allow for the connection, drawings of which can be seen in Appendix 1-1 of EIAR. The application includes this onsite 110kV substation and grid connection in Cloghercor. The grid connection will be kept off the public road with the exception of a single location where it will cross the L6483.

As the project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) the application documentation includes a copy of the EIAR Portal Notice. The correspondence issued confirms the EIA portal ID number for the project (2023033) and that the details have been uploaded onto the Department's portal on 07/03/2023.

The following documents are included in the application pack:

- Planning Application Documentation
  - Planning Application Form (Versions in Irish and English)
  - Site Notice (Versions in Irish and English)
  - Newspaper Notice (Versions in Irish and English)
  - EIAR Portal Confirmation (2023033)
  - Planning Cover Letters (Donegal County Council and An Bord Pleanála)
  - Letters of Consent from Relevant Landowners
  - Confirmation of SID determination
  - Schedule of Prescribed Bodies and copy of notification letters sent
  - Confirmation of payment of SID Planning Application Fee of €100,000.00
- Planning Application Drawings (See addendum to application form which also has schedule and confirmation of suitability of drawing scales)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
  - Volume 1- EIAR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) (Versions in Irish and English)
  - Volume 2- EIAR Main Body
  - Volume 3- EIAR Appendices
  - Volume 4- Photomontages
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
- Mitigation Measures Document
- Planning Statement

All elements of the proposed development, including the proposed grid connection to the existing overhead line in the townland of Cloghercor and forestry felling, as well as elements which form part of the overall project but are not part of the current planning application such as works required on public roads to accommodate turbine delivery, have been considered and are assessed as part of the EIAR and NIS.

Please find 2 hard copies and 8 electronic copies of the planning application pack enclosed with this letter. Donegal County Council has also received 5 hard copies and 2 electronic copies. All prescribed bodies as identified are being provided with application documentation in a digital format, provided on a physical data disc.

I trust that you have all the information you require to progress the application. If, however, you have any queries or require to discuss any matter in detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to your decision in due course.

Yours sincerely,



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Dr. John Staunton BSc. PhD.

Senior Project Manager & Environmental Scientist

**For and on behalf of TOBIN Consulting Engineers**

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