



Sure Partners Ltd
C/o Kaj Christiansen
Red Oak South
South County Business Park
Leopardstown
Dublin 18

Date: 10 April 2025

Re: Proposed offshore wind energy development - Arklow Bank Wind Park 2
Located off the coasts of Co. Wicklow and Co. Wexford
(<https://www.arklowbank2offshoreplanning.ie/>)

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned proposed development which is before the Board for consideration.

Following a review of the application documentation, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report, Natura Impact Statement (NIS), and all observations received by An Bord Pleanála (herein referred to as the Board), and having regard to:

- The requirement under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended) for the Board as a relevant body, in so far as is practicable, to perform its functions in a manner consistent with, *inter alia*, the most recently approved Climate Action Plan and the objective of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change in the State,

- the matters to which the Board is required to have regard in the making of its decision as set out in section 293 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, including the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive,
- the provisions of the National Marine Planning Framework,
- the application of an ecosystems based approach,
- the ongoing development of national policy guidance relating to offshore renewable energy, as well as relevant international guidance and practice,
- Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) and Directive 79/409/EEC as amended by 2009/14/EC (Birds Directive) which set the requirements for Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora throughout the European Union,
- Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment,
- the submission of concurrent applications for offshore wind energy development within the Irish Sea and the need to ensure a comprehensive assessment of potential cumulative impacts arising,
- submissions/observations received including those from prescribed bodies with specific areas of expertise, and
- the input of specialist consultants engaged by the Board to advise on the application,

the applicant is required further to section 292(1)(a) of the 2000 Act to respond to the further information items specified in the attached Schedule within a period of 9 months from the date of this request.

However, the Board acknowledges, given the nature and extent of the information sought and in particular the time sensitive nature of any additional survey work that may arise in the marine environment and the time required for any additional survey work, that an extension of time may

be required. If the applicant requires additional time to respond to this request, an extension of time must be requested in writing prior to the expiration of the initial 9 month period specified herein. Any such request should include the reasons why an extension of time is required and the proposed time period within which it is proposed to submit the additional information. Notwithstanding the initial 9 month period, the applicant is encouraged to contact the Board as soon as it is of the view that further time may be required.

The applicant is referred to NMPF Protected Marine Site Policy 1 in considering the response to this further information request: 'Proposals must demonstrate that they can be implemented without adverse effects on the integrity of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Where adverse effects from proposals remain following mitigation, in line with Habitats Directive Article 6(3), consent for the proposals cannot be granted unless the prerequisites set by Article 6(4) are met'.

It should also be noted that this request for further information should be seen in the context of the above listed requirements and considerations and should not be taken as an indicator as to the acceptability or otherwise of the proposed development.

Response to Submissions/Observations

In addition to the above request for information, the applicant is invited pursuant to section 292(1)(c) of the 2000 Act, to respond to the issues raised in the submissions and observations received by the Board from members of the public and prescribed bodies, and the reports received from the coastal planning authorities which have been furnished to you. Insofar as the same issues arise in multiple submissions, this may be done on a thematic basis. For the avoidance of doubt, the same time limit and caveats apply as set out above.

The further information referred to in the attached schedule and any response to the submissions/observations referred to above should be received by the Board no later than 5.30 p.m. on the **19th January, 2026**. The provisions of section 251 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 relating to the holiday period between the 24th December and 1st

January, both days inclusive, have been taken into account in the calculation of the response date.

In this regard, please submit 2 hard copies and one electronic copy of the above information. Two hard copies and one electronic copy is also required to your response to the submissions/observations.

Please note that following its examination of any information lodged in response to this request for additional information, the Board will then decide whether or not to invoke its powers under section 292(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to publish notice of the furnishing of any additional information and to allow for inspection or purchase of same and the making of further written submissions in relation to same to the Board.

Enclosures Schedule – Further Information Request, Appendix A – Technical Note and Appendix B – NSIP Templates are attached.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email marine@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

PP 

Raymond Muwaniri
Executive Officer
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