
ABP-319864-24

From Margaret Molloy <irishdancer1949@gmail.com>
Date Wed 7/29/2026 4:40 PM
To Marine <marine@pleanala.ie>
Cc mr_hartigan@hotmail.com <mr_hartigan@hotmail.com>

 1 attachment (87 KB)
Margaret Hartigan_319864.pdf;

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Dear Inspector,

Please find attached my submission to the Commission regarding Arklow Bank Wind Park 2.

I was a previous observer in the first consultation, number 59, Margaret Hartigan and Family.

Regards,
Margaret

Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Dated: 29th July 2026

**Re: Case Reference OA27-319864-24 Proposed Offshore Wind Energy Development
Sure Partners Limited - Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Additional Information**

Submission By: Hartigan Family

Name: Margaret Hartigan

Address: Tonnta, 13 Moyville Lawn, Taylors Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16.

Email: irishdancer1949@gmail.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was born in 1949 in Dunlavin, West Wicklow. As a young adult and mother, I have owned a mobile home in Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow since 1969.

I have witnessed many changes in the townlands between Arklow and Wicklow as population has grown and technology becomes part and parcel of day to day life. What remains the same, however, is the human right to a healthy environment. Ireland signed the Aarhus Convention, an international agreement to ensure exactly this. I urge the commission to refer to this as your singular guide and guardian in undertaking this important planning decision.

The Aarhus Convention gives everyone three basic environmental rights:

1. The right to know
 - You have the right to get environmental information from your government.
 - For example, if a company wants to build an offshore wind farm, you should be able to see reports about the effects on whales, dolphins, birds, fish, water quality and climate and understand them. The reports provided by SSE Renewables have not been made accessible. They are technical. They are large to download. They are not presented in a plain language for the public to fully understand.
2. The right to have your say
 - Before important environmental decisions are made, the public must be given a real opportunity to comment. The developer has had months of extended time to produce very important reports. The public has only 8 weeks to review these documents. This is not a level playing field.
 - Governments cannot simply pretend to consult people after they have already decided what they want to do. On Friday 24th July, five days before the second

public consultation on Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 closes, Minister O'Brien told a press conference alongside the EU Environment Commissioner, Jessika Roswall, that his focus is on getting offshore wind farms into construction. The Marine Planning Policy Statement he recently presented on 7th July confirms what that focus means in practice: a marine planning framework built around food security, energy security and economic security, with nature nowhere on the list. The minister responsible for the environment spoke about offshore wind at an EU environment ministers' meeting and did not mention environmental law once.

- The MPPS was presented on the same day that Ireland hosted EU policymakers in Wexford to discuss the EU Ocean Act, a proposed EU law designed to strengthen policy coherence between ocean governance, biodiversity and nature restoration. Minister Dooley told the Wexford conference that the challenge is ensuring that economic opportunities are balanced with protecting the marine environment. I believe this framing is misguided. Ecological protection is not one consideration to be balanced against economic opportunity. It is the legal and scientific precondition that determines where economic opportunity is lawfully permitted to go. The Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive all confirm this, as does the Court of Justice of the European Union in twenty years of case law on Article 6(3).
- On the 26th May, Minister O'Brien said at the Wind Energy Industry Conference, that 'this part of the decade has to be where we get steel in the water'. Wind Energy Ireland's chief executive confirmed a decision on ABWP2 was expected by early December this year. The public consultation on ABWP2 opened after this event, on the 3rd June 2026.

3. The right to go to court

- If you think environmental laws have been broken, you should be able to challenge the decision in court.
- The legal process should be fair and not so expensive that ordinary people cannot afford it.
- The Irish Times reported on the 25th July that the government would disapply elements of environmental legislation for key capital developments, reducing the potential for judicial review. Minister Jack Chambers said: "It is not for NGOs to use our court system to fundamentally delay projects. It is a matter for the Government to decide what projects we want to fund and deliver." Section 15 of the Climate Act is not a weapon. It is a law passed by the same Oireachtas the Minister now invokes to justify removing it. A government removing that mechanism while facing EU infringement proceedings for environmental non-compliance is not leading a green transition. It is eliminating the last protection available to the habitats it has already failed. It is removing citizens' ability to challenge bad decisions in court.

A consultation process that is taking place within a political environment where the outcome has been publicly stated and within a legislative environment that is being adjusted to narrow legal challenges to the outcome (Critical Infrastructure Bill) is worthy of questioning if the government is genuinely committed to managing Ireland's marine environment with the best available modern science and in compliance with EU environmental law and the Aarhus Convention.

The balance of nature is not a status quo; it is fluid, highly sensitive, ever shifting, in a constant state of adjustment. Man, too, is part of this balance and we must remember that there are consequences in nature for our actions.

We, in this generation must come to terms with the power of nature, and I think we're challenged as mankind has never been challenged before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves to respect it.

With the best available modern science, and in compliance with the rule of law, there is no basis for An Coimisiún Pleanála to grant consent for this project.

Best regards,

Margaret Hartigan (nee Molloy)