

Observation to Additional Information provided by SSE to ACP

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OBSERVATION ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2

ACP Reference: ABP-319864-24

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been holidaying in Brittas Bay since the early 1980s, when I first visited as a child. Now, as a married parent of three children, Brittas Bay continues to hold a special place in our family's lives. We cherish the time we spend together on its beautiful Blue Flag beach and value the unique natural environment that has provided generations of families with lasting memories. It is my sincere hope that my children, and future generations, will continue to enjoy this exceptional coastline for many years to come.

I fully support the development of renewable energy and recognise the important role offshore wind will play in helping Ireland achieve its climate objectives. However, I believe that Arklow Bank is the wrong location for a wind farm of this scale.

Having considered the additional information submitted by the Applicant, I do not believe it demonstrates with sufficient scientific certainty that the project will avoid adverse impacts on the Arklow Bank sandbank, sediment movement, nearby beaches, protected habitats, bathing waters and marine wildlife. This is an exceptionally dynamic coastal environment, and where uncertainty remains, the potential consequences should not be underestimated.

If the Applicant's predictions prove to be incorrect, the impacts may not be borne by the developer alone. Instead, local communities, tourism, the State and the natural environment could face long-term consequences through changes to coastal processes, damage to beaches and dunes, impacts on water quality, and harm to protected habitats and species.

Future generations will not judge this decision solely on the urgency of today's climate targets. They will judge it by whether Ireland protected its irreplaceable natural assets when it still had the opportunity to do so, while pursuing renewable energy in a way that respected both the environment and the law.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed development in its current location. Offshore wind energy remains an important part of Ireland's future, but this project should be relocated to a safer site further offshore, a minimum of 22 kilometres from the coast, where the risks to this unique and environmentally sensitive coastline would be significantly reduced.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Ward