

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 a longstanding personal connection to Brittas Bay and the Wicklow coastline. My family has been holidaying in Brittas Bay for 15 years, regularly spending up to three months there each year. Over these years, I have come to know and value this unique coastal environment and appreciate its importance to local communities, visitors, wildlife, and the wider natural heritage of Ireland.

I strongly support the transition to renewable energy and recognise its importance in addressing climate change. However, I believe that Arklow Bank is not an appropriate location for a wind farm of this scale.

I remain concerned that the additional information submitted by the Applicant has not demonstrated, with sufficient scientific certainty, that the proposed development will not adversely affect the Arklow Bank sandbank, coastal sediment movement, nearby beaches, protected habitats, bathing waters, or the diverse wildlife that depends upon these ecosystems.

Having returned to Brittas Bay year after year, I understand how important this coastline is to local residents, families, swimmers, walkers, and the many businesses whose livelihoods depend on tourism and the continued health of the coastal environment. Should the Applicant's predictions prove incorrect, the environmental, social, and economic consequences could be significant and could endure for generations.

I believe Ireland can continue to develop renewable energy while also protecting its most valuable and sensitive natural environments. Renewable energy projects should be located in appropriate areas and supported by robust scientific evidence, transparent assessment, and meaningful public participation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development, or alternatively require further independent scientific assessment, unless and until SSE can provide scientifically robust evidence demonstrating that the project will not adversely affect Arklow Bank, coastal processes, water quality, protected habitats, wildlife, or the integrity of the adjoining Wicklow and Wexford coastline.

Yours Faithfully,

Suzanne Townsend