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OUR REF

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ACP-322902-25

29 September 2026

BY EMAIL: sids@pleanala.ie

FAO: Ms Ellen Moss
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
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Our client – Coole Wind Farm Limited
An Coimisiún Pleanála reference no. ACP-322902-25
Your letter dated 31 March 2026

By Email

Dear Colleagues

We refer to your letter dated 31 March 2026, regarding the application bearing reference number [ACP-322902-25](#) (the “**Application**”) addressed to MKO, Planning and Environmental Consultants, the agent for Coole Wind Farm Limited (the “**Applicant**”). The letter has been prepared as part of the response.

The Application for Coole wind farm was made direct to An Coimisiún Pleanála (the “**Commission**”, at the time, An Bord Pleanála) on 22 March 2021 (Commission ref. number [ABP-309770-21](#)). The Commission made a decision to refuse permission on 20 March 2024. That decision has been quashed (with the consent of the Commission) by the Hight Court by an order dated 10 February 2025 and perfected on 3 March 2025: *Coole Wind Farm Limited v. An Bord Pleanála* [H.JR.2024.000657](#). The matter was remitted to the Commission for reconsideration and decision in accordance with law.

The agent for the Applicant has prepared a detailed response to the information sought by the Commission, to which this letter is appended. We make the following further observations and suggestions, to assist the Commission with the assessment of the Application.

Having regard to the successful defence of the legal challenge to the previous permission granted on 26 March 2019 (Commission ref. number [PL25M.300686](#)), and the ten-year duration of that permission, the Commission will be aware that the Applicant continues to hold an extant permission for the development of 13 no. wind turbine generators (WTG) on these lands. Pursuant to section 180

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of the Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended, the duration of that permission was suspended for the period during which the legal challenge was extant, with the consequence that none of the permitted duration is lost as a result of those proceedings.

The Application now pending before the Commission seeks permission for a renewable energy development comprising 15 no. WTGs (an increase of 2 no. WTGs) on these lands (the “**Proposed Wind Farm**”), and the laying of approximately 26 km of underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid from the proposed onsite electrical substation located in the townland of Camagh to the existing 100kV Mullingar substation located in the townland of Irishtown (the “**Proposed Grid Connection**”, comprising the onsite substation and electricity cabling), together (the “**Proposed Development**”).

The Applicant is confident that the Commission has before it more than sufficient information to enable it to determine the Application and to grant permission for the Proposed Development.

Without prejudice to that position, in the event the Commission has some unexpected residual uncertainty about the Proposed Development of any of the 15 no. WTGs, the Applicant invites the Commission to make a split decision. Specifically, rather than suffer the delay arising from another request for further information or arising from completion by the Commission of technical notes to resolve that uncertainty, the Applicant invites a grant of permission for the Proposed Grid Connection.

When the Commission previously determined the application (ref. ABP-309770-21), the Commission expressed no concern about or objection to the Proposed Grid Connection. The decision to refuse permission related only to the Proposed Wind Farm, and that decision was quashed by Order of the High Court made on 10 February 2025.

The distinction is reinforced by the Inspector’s Report that clearly distinguished between the windfarm site and the grid connection route, for assessment purposes: the grid connection route is not located on cutaway peatland. The report concluded (at § 10.4) that the “the route selected is acceptable in terms of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area”.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that there is no impediment to the grant of permission for the Proposed Grid Connection element of the Proposed Development.

While the strong preference of the Applicant is for the Commission to grant permission for the entire of the Proposed Development, the successful defence of the legal challenge to the previous permission means that a split decision of the kind suggested would enable the Applicant to deliver a renewable energy project on these lands.

This invitation is made for pragmatic reasons only, having regard to the urgency of the demand for renewable energy development and the impact of cost price inflation on the viability of the project.

The Applicant would remain free to request permission to amend and alter the permitted WTGs separately, including while the permitted development is under construction, should it choose.

Yours sincerely

(sent by email, so bears no signature)

McCann FitzGerald LLP