

Mr. Pdraig O'Reilly,

Re; North-South Interconnector

Date; 19th Sept., 2014

Dear Mr. O'Reilly,

The Board has asked me to refer to your query of 14th July and respond as follows:

1. An Bord Pleanála was designated as Competent Authority for Projects of Common Interest on 4th December, 2013 in accordance with Regulation 347/2013. The Manual of Procedures was published on 15th May, 2014. The Manual states that An Bord Pleanála "will establish a PCI Unit to administer the PCI process separate from its Strategic Infrastructure or Planning Appeals Units".

The PCI Unit was established shortly afterwards. Projects of Common Interest are still a relatively new function for the organisation and the PCI Unit is still in a transitional phase. The Unit is an administrative unit reflecting the Board's view that under the "Collaborative Scheme" approach adopted by the State the Board's PCI permit granting role is principally one of co-ordinating the issuing of all the consents and decisions, including planning consents, required from all relevant authorities and to monitor compliance with time limits agreed for the issue of such consents. The Director of Planning has managerial responsibility for Planning Appeals, Strategic Infrastructure and Projects of Common Interest and directs and advises all 3 Sections.

2. Eirgrid is currently engaging with administrative staff of the PCI Unit of An Bord Pleanála.
3. The administrative staff meeting with Eirgrid in relation to PCI are a Senior Administrative Officer and an Executive Officer. The Senior Administrative Officer involved has roles in relation to both strategic infrastructure work and PCI work. This results from essential functional and logistical arrangements arising from the Board's new role as Competent Authority for PCI. The Senior Administrative Officer was involved in pre-application consultation meetings with Eirgrid. The Executive Officer concerned has no involvement with the Strategic Infrastructure Section.

I apologise for the delay in responding to your email, which was partly due to the need to clarify certain matters with staff that were on leave.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Clarke

Secretary,

An Bord Pleanála.

01 8737244
