



An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
Ireland,
D01 V902

Our ref: 240730-c

Your ref: 320087-24

Date: 5th December 2025

Re: Response to Further Information Request in relation to An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref. 320087-24, for the Proposed Substation comprising of 220kV Gas Insulated Switchgear Building, Independent Power Producer Compound, Battery Energy Storage System Compound, Underground Grid Connection and Associated Cabling located at Cloonarkan, Clonberne and Laughil, Co. Galway.

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client Clonberne Windfarm Limited, (the Applicant), MKO have prepared a detailed Response to Further Information (RFI) report in response to a Further Information Request (FI Request) issued by An Coimisiún Pleanála ('the Commission')(ACP Ref. 320087-24) issued on the 15th of May 2025. The FI Request was issued in relation to a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application submitted to the Commission on the 2nd July 2024, concerning a 220kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building, an Independent Power Producer (IPP) compound, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound, underground grid connection and associated cabling to connect the Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm to the national grid via the existing Flagford to Cashla 220kV overhead line in the townlands of Cloonarkan, Clonberne and Laughil, Co. Galway.

On the 15th May 2025, the Commission issued a request for Further Information in accordance with Section 37F(1)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act) which sought information relating to Procedural Issues and the BESS element of the planning application, as well as a response to any issues raised by Third-Party Observers and Statutory Consultees. A response to the FI Request was due by 5:30pm on the 17th of November 2025. An extension of the deadline was requested and subsequently granted, setting a new deadline of the 5th of December 2025 at 5:30pm.

The planning application was submitted directly to the Commission (ACP Ref. 320087-24) under the provisions of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Applicant is seeking a 10-year planning permission for the proposed development.

The Proposed Grid Connection as set out in the public notices is as follows:

I. Construction of a permanent substation which will comprise of a 220kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building, an Independent Power Producer (IPP) compound, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound, including 4 no. 18-metre high Lightning Monopoles, welfare facilities,

Galway - MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84 (**Correspondence address**)

Dublin - MKO, 9C Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W

+353 (0)1 735 611 | mkoireland.ie | info@mkoireland.ie

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No: 462657. VAT No: IE9693052R

MKO Water Limited t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No: 338589. VAT No: IE6358589Q

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- car parking, wastewater holding tank, 36-metre-high Telecommunications Mast, 2.6-metre high palisade fencing, external lighting, underground cabling, and all associated infrastructure and apparatus;*
- II. All works associated with the connection of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm to the national electricity grid, including the provision of underground electrical cabling (220kV) to the existing Flagford to Cashla 220kV overhead line, in the townland of Laughil;*
- III. The provision of 2 no. loop-in towers, 2 no. gantries within 2 no. cable compounds to facilitate the connection of the proposed substation to the existing Flagford to Cashla 220kV overhead line;*
- IV. Construction of 2 no. gated permanent site entrances off the L6501 Local Road to facilitate access to the proposed development and the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm;*
- V. Provision of 4 no. joint bays, communication chambers and earth sheath links along the underground electrical cabling route and temporary accommodation areas to facilitate underground cabling works;*
- VI. Provision of a cable access track to facilitate the installation and maintenance of cabling and provide access to the proposed substation;*
- VII. Reinstatement of the road or track surface above the proposed cabling trench along existing roads and tracks;*
- VIII. Operational access road to the proposed development and the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm;*
- IX. Site Drainage;*
- X. Tree felling and hedgerow removal to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development;*
- XI. Operational stage site signage; and*
- XII. All ancillary works and apparatus.*

The application is seeking a ten-year planning permission. The development subject of this application will facilitate the connection of the proposed 11 no. wind turbine Clonberne Wind Farm to the national electricity grid. A concurrent application in relation to the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm is also being lodged to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the project and accompany this planning application.

Please find enclosed a detailed response to the items of the FI Request issued by the Commission. The response has been prepared by MKO in collaboration with the wider project team including D.M. Flaherty & Associates Fire, Structural & Civil Engineering Consultants, Tobar Archaeology, Hydro-Environmental Services, Alan Lipscombe Traffic & Transport Consultants and TLI Group.

The following documents are included in the RFI submission:

- Response to Further Information Report, including the following appendices:
 - **Appendix 1** – An Coimisiún Pleanála Further Information Request
 - **Appendix 2** – Fire Risk Management & Emergency Response Plan
 - **Appendix 3** – BESS Drawings
 - **Appendix 4** – Tobar Archaeology Response
 - **Appendix 5** – Hydro-Environmental Services Response

I trust that the enclosed information is sufficient for the requirements of the Commission. If, however, there is anything further that you require, or if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ciara Griffin

Ciara Griffin

Planner, MKO

Tel: 091 735 611

Email: cgriffin@mkoireland.ie

Galway - MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84 (**Correspondence address**)
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