

Ms Sorcha Skelly
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

8 June 2021

Our ref: MAUR
Your ref: ABP-309223-21
Cork County Council ref: D/285/20

Re: Section 5 Declaration whether the underground electricity cable grid connections is or is not development and is or is not exempted development. Dromdeeveen Wind Farm, Ballagh, Co. Limerick

Dear Ms Skelly

I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 4 June 2021 and note that Mauricetown Wind Farm Limited (Mauricetown) wishes to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the above matter

The submission by The Planning Partnership on behalf of Mr Patrick Cremins to An Bord Pleanála sets out the following query:

Whether the provision of:

The underground electricity cable grid connections and associated works from the Cork County/ Limerick County border at the Glashawee River to the Glenlara 110 kV Substation in County Cork, associated with the underground electricity cable grid connections and associated works from the Tullylease 38 kV Substation (Co. Limerick) to the electricity cable grid connection which runs from the Dromdeeveen Wind Farm 38 kV Substation (Co. Limerick) to the Glenlara 110 kV, and between the Dromdeeveen Wind Farm and the Glenlara 110 kV Substation

Is or is not development and is or is not exempted development

Given the lengthy and repetitive nature of the appeal the multitude of questions raised have not been addressed individually. This should not be taken as agreement or acceptance of any point. For the avoidance of doubt, every point is wholly refuted. We make the following comments at this time:

- Mauricetown Wind Farm is not an owner or occupier of any land or property within County Cork and is incorrectly listed as such in the Section 5 declaration application dated 13 November 2020;
- Section 1.2 paragraph (d) and (e) of the Section 5 Declaration application dated 18 January 2021 (and elsewhere in the submission) reproduce selected text transposed from the

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and EIS Non-technical Summary submitted with the planning application for Mauricetown Wind Farm, LCCC Ref: 12/379, ABP Ref: PL13.240910. The full text of each of the paragraphs referenced is reproduced below. None of this text refers to development, exempt or otherwise within County Cork.

4.3 *The principal components of the wind farm comprise the following:*

- *up to 6 wind turbine generators;*
- *crane hardstandings;*
- *permanent access tracks to gain access to the site and between the turbines;*
- *an 85m meteorological mast;*
- *a temporary construction compound;*
- *buried electrical and fibre optic cabling;*
- *an electrical connection from the site to the 38kV electricity distribution network (Any elements of the connection that require planning consent would be subject to a separate planning application, currently the responsibility of Electricity Supply Board (ESB)); and*
- *a combined substation, site office and store.*

2.9.4 *The electricity will be exported from the sub-station to the electricity grid subject to the technical details specified by the connection offer that will be issued by ESB Networks. These connection works are currently the responsibility of ESB Networks and any elements of the connection works that require planning permission will be subject to a separate planning application. The environmental aspects of a suggested notional grid connection route are covered in this EIS, to meet the requirements of the EIA Directive, but may be subject to change. Should these details change further environmental studies shall be carried out to ensure the choice of an alternative grid connection will not have significant environmental impacts.*

It is clear and unambiguous, planning consent has been put in place for any elements of the connection works that require planning permission.

The notional grid connection route assessed and recorded in the EIS is the constructed grid connection route which is entirely within County Limerick.

There are 25 conditions attached to the Mauricetown Wind Farm permission. None require planning permission to be obtained for grid connection.

The EIS submitted in respect of the Mauricetown Wind Farm permission stated that where permission was required it would be applied for. It did not state that planning permission was required and would be sought. As per the Lannigan Case, An Bord Pleanála could have imposed an express planning condition requiring planning permission to be obtained for grid connection. It did not, however and therefore no such obligation exists.

Therefore Mauricetown Wind Farm, and its grid connection to Tullylease substation, is entirely distinguishable from the precedents cited by the applicant where the relevant wind farm permissions required planning permission to be obtained for grid connections, by way of express planning condition (including, for example, the planning permission the subject of An Bord Pleanála's section 5 declaration Reg Ref. RL3531 cited).

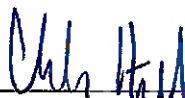
As already stated none of the foregoing relates to pre-existing grid infrastructure within County Cork.

- The matter of the cable works associated with the connection of the Tullylease 38 kV switching station to the existing electricity distribution network is included within planning

consent 17/338 issued by Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) on 31 August 2017. None of these works are within County Cork.

- The matter of the 38 kV cable in County Cork from the Cork/Limerick border to Glenlara 110 kV Substation that forms part of the pre-existing electricity distribution network is not a matter related to Mauricetown Wind Farm. It is the understanding of Mauricetown Wind Farm that the cable that is referred to has formed a part of the electricity distribution network and been in continuous operation since 2011.
- Section 1.4 paragraph k of the referral dated 13 November 2020 (and elsewhere in the submission) states that the underground electricity cable from the Tullylease 38 kV Substation to the Glenlara 110 kV Substation was constructed after 2017, this is not correct. It is the understanding of Mauricetown Wind Farm that this 38 kV cable has formed part of the electricity distribution network since 2011 and was constructed before that time.

Yours sincerely,



Charles Hazelwood
Director, Mauricetown Wind Farm Limited

