



Galway Harbour Company DAC (trading as The Port of Galway)
Comhlacht Cuain na Gaillimhe DAC (ag trádáil mar Calafort na Gaillimhe)

Offshore Wind Grid Development Consultation
Energy Division
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2
D02 X285

Re: Consultation to inform a grid development policy for offshore wind in Ireland

22nd July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Port of Galway welcomes the opportunity to make this submission on the Department's consultation on a grid development policy for offshore wind. It is important that the wind energy industry and all industry stakeholders have clarity on the short term and longer term strategy for how Ireland's offshore wind energy projects will connect to the electricity transmission grid. Harnessing Ireland's offshore wind energy resource is vital to the decarbonisation of the Irish economy and the Department is to be commended for its efforts in running this consultation and in promoting offshore wind energy.

In relation to the consultation questions posed in Section 5 of the Department's consultation document, as a member of the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA), The Port of Galway endorses IWEA's submission on the consultation and its responses to the specific questions in Section 5.

The Port of Galway is planning to play a central role in the offshore wind energy industry by facilitating the port requirements of projects planned for the Atlantic Ocean off Ireland's west coast.

Directors - [REDACTED]

Port of Galway, Registered Office Harbour Office, New Docks, Galway H91 PD37. Registered Number 262364
T: 353 91 561874/562329 E: info@theportofgalway.com W: www.theportofgalway.ie



The Port of Galway recognises that the grid development policy being consulted upon will most immediately be of interest to the east coast and Irish Sea offshore wind farms. However, given the longer lead times involved in developing offshore projects, the Department should also think beyond just the short term. By the time the seven named 'relevant projects' are considered in and emerge from the new marine planning system, the next generation of offshore wind projects in the Celtic Sea and Atlantic Ocean will require clarity as to how their grid connections will be facilitated. A number of projects in this next wave of offshore wind development are already actively progressing survey work and preparing to enter the new marine planning application process when it becomes available.

The Port of Galway is located centrally on Ireland's west coast with direct access to the vast offshore wind energy resource of the Atlantic Ocean. It would be common for an offshore wind farm to take more than a decade to go from concept to energisation and commercial operation. For this reason, the Department's grid development policy should have a time horizon well into the 2030's and beyond. To give offshore wind developers clarity on how their projects in the Atlantic Ocean will be connected to the transmission grid even by the start to middle of the next decade (2030-2035), a clear policy and grid development roadmap must be developed now.

The Port of Galway looks forward to continuing to engage with the Department and other Government Departments, agencies and industry stakeholders, to further progress and facilitate the development of offshore wind energy in Ireland in the years and decades to come.

Yours sincerely,

 The Port of Galway