

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

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

---  
POSTAL ADDRESS  
Building 4200  
Cork Airport Business Park  
Cork  
Ireland  
T12 D23C  
---  
PHONE  
+353 21 242 7786  
---  
INTERNET  
www.statkraft.com  
---

Emailed to: OffshoreWind@dccae.gov.ie

### **Re: Consultation to Inform a Grid Development Policy for Offshore Wind in Ireland**

Statkraft welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and respond to the consultation paper to inform a grid development policy for offshore wind in Ireland. Statkraft is Europe's largest renewable generator.

We believe that offshore wind will play a crucial role in enabling Ireland to meet its 2030 renewable energy and decarbonisation targets, but only with a considered grid model which can facilitate the timely delivery of 5 GW of offshore wind by 2030, as outlined in the Programme for Government. Close collaboration across all parties including the DCCAE, EirGrid, CRU, ESB Networks and industry will be vital to delivering progress in the coming decade.

Statkraft fully supports the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) response to the consultation and wishes to reiterate that the points raised in their consultation response are extremely important to ensure the timely and cost-effective delivery of offshore wind by 2030.

In line with IWEA's response, we highlight our strong preference for a basis of Option 1 with strategic components of Option 2, focused on the proactive development of the transmission system, being progressed as a hybrid solution as the appropriate grid option to take Ireland to our 2030 targets. We believe a transition to a plan-led approach is likely to be needed post-2030 to unlock additional offshore wind potential beyond 5 GW, and that further consultation is needed on what this transition might look like. Planning for the transition from the pre-2030 model to the post-2030 more plan-led approach must begin as soon as a pre-2030 model is defined to provide a clear, transparent roadmap for offshore wind development into the future.

In conclusion, we would like to thank DCCAE for the opportunity to engage on this matter and look forward to continuing our work with you in future.

Yours sincerely,



For and on behalf of Statkraft Ireland Ltd.