

Monday, 28 February 2022

Offshore Wind Phase Two Consultation

International and Offshore Energy Division

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

29-31 Adelaide Road

Dublin 2

D02 X285

RE. Offshore Wind

A Chara,

I want to register my support for offshore wind in Irish waters. I have searched for the environmental impacts from the existing offshore wind farm off Arklow and can find none.

I can find papers online internationally showing that marine life thrives after the installation of offshore windfarms due to the absence of trawling and other human activities.

We will in this decade have ample capacity to export surplus wind power via interconnectors, I would like to ask the Dept to accelerate all possible projects for offshore wind at the earliest opportunity.

We have waited too many years for development in this area to secure our energy supply.

In asking for accelerated development I would like to echo the ESB's submission to use existing onshore power station grid connections for offshore wind projects i.e. come ashore at existing power stations and skip the need for new connections.

Our seas are effectively defence less with no sonar, anti-submarine, or air cover, despite the findings of the Commission on Defence this will not change anytime soon: One possible security strategy is to have so many diverse wind farms and connections that it is too expensive for a foreign actor to significantly disrupt.

After the invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022, we need accelerated installation of wind turbines on and offshore, ideally with all regulators working in parallel (not in sequence as now). We can act quickly when we want to, now is the time for Ireland to become the fastest place to install a wind turbine, on or off shore.







