

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 27 October 2022 17:17
To: Energy Consultation
Subject: Review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Submission to the consultation

[REDACTED]

To the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications:

Your Department asks for submissions from "interested parties" to this important public consultation. **Each and every Irish citizen, both present and future, is an interested party** - we are all desperately hoping that our future, and that of the planet, will be a liveable one, and not a global climate catastrophe engulfing Ireland along with the rest of the world. So the outcomes of the current review of Ireland's energy security could not be of more importance.

Given recent upheavals, there is rightly a concern about Ireland's short-term energy supplies. But I ask the Government to hold its nerve and maintain the longer-term view, and not allow itself to be diverted (quite possibly by powerful commercial interests in relevant industries) into renegeing on the many solemn international climate commitments made on Irish citizens' behalf in recent years.

I am a member of a community-based climate action group, which holds a weekly vigil on our Main Street, engaging with local people on climate issues. This experience tells me that the Irish public has an informed understanding of the links between the rich world's consumption - including of fossil fuel based energy supplies and related commodities such as plastics - and the devastating impacts on poorer countries which are already unmistakably linked to climate change.

So I believe we are capable of changing our behaviour in support of strong Government action to continue and accelerate Ireland's move to a low-carbon economy and society as rapidly as possible. But we require that moral leadership, and the kind of determination and commitment that Government showed in our adaptation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ireland simply has to move away from powering itself using fossil fuels to an economy and society based on renewable energy - and this will give us the best possible security of supply, as we will no longer be dependent on outside sources.

In short, to achieve this, Ireland urgently needs a range of measures, including:

- Rapidly accelerating the development of **renewable energy systems**, especially wind and large-scale solar - with Ireland firmly in ownership and control of them;
-

- Putting resources into researching and implementing **less developed renewable technologies** - particularly green hydrogen and tidal energy;
-
- Sticking to the principle of an **LNG-Free Ireland**;
-
- Issuing no **more licences for fossil fuel exploration or extraction**;
-
- Pausing the building of any more **data centres**;
-
- Helping **households** contribute to the energy transition by expanding supports available for micro-generation and home insulation;
-
- Designing and imposing stringent new **climate-friendly building standards**, as Ireland catches up with housing demand - and mechanisms to prevent the carbon emissions of demolition processes;
-
- Prioritising the building of a **world-class public transport system**, and reducing the number of car journeys, including by electric vehicles
- Imposing appropriate speed limits on all types of roads to save fuel (whether petrol, diesel or electricity);
-
- And undertaking a **well-resourced public education and information programme** to highlight the long-term benefits, not just for Irish people now, but for all future generations of humanity, of making these changes, and making them NOW.

This is my contribution to the public consultation. I am one of many Irish voices urging the fastest possible transition to a clean and green future.

I earnestly hope those who hold our future in their hands as Government Ministers and officials at this crucial time will listen and respond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

██████████

████████████████████
████████████████████
████████████████████