

Technical Appendix 1.3: Scoping Opinion

Consultee Organisation	Contact Name	Email/ Phone No	Response Received	Implications for the EIA/Design	EIAR Chapter / Section where Comments have been addressed
Donegal County Council Planning Department	Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner	info@donegalcoco.ie / 074 9153900	Letter from Eunan Quinn, Senior Planner, dated 31.07.2019, provided comments relating to the transboundary context of the proposal, deletion of the wind energy strategy of the County Development Plan 2018-2024, review of viewpoints and noise elements. Viewpoints were issued to Donegal County Council in digital format. Email from Eunan Quinn on the 21/08/2019 stated that no further vantage points have been identified by the planning authority. However, they wish to highlight that further aspects relating to visual impact assessment may arise through the formal consideration of any planning application that may be submitted.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	Transboundary – 4.6 County Development Plan – 4.4.8. Viewpoints – 13.3.5.8
Agriculture					
Department of Agriculture	Graham Lennox	minister@agriculture.gov.ie / 01 607 2000	Letter from the Graham Lennox, Private Secretary (pp Amanda Monks) dated 13.06.2019 confirming receipt of JOD letter, which was forwarded to relevant Dept. officials.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-
Telecommunications					
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland	Roger Woods	rwoods@bai.ie / 01 644 1200	Email from Roger Woods (rwoods@bai.ie), Senior Executive Engineer on 14.06.2019.	The BAI does not perform an in-depth analysis of the effect of wind turbines on FM networks. However, we are not aware of any issues from existing windfarms into existing FM networks. Also, the proposed windfarms are not located close to any existing or planned FM transmission sites.	-
Commission for Communications Regulation	Tom Butler	industry@comreg.ie / 01 804 9600	Phone call between AK (JOD) and Tom Butler on 27.06.2019. Tom noted that the Commission have no role in permissions so do not provide feedback.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-
Department of Defence		info@defence.ie / 045 492 000	No response received to date (07.10.2019).	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-
Donegal Airport	Breandán Ó Baoill	bobaoill@donegalairport.ie / 074 9548 284	Email from Breandán Ó Baoill, Air Traffic Control dated 15.06.2019.	The feedback from Donegal Airport states that changes to the proposed Barnesmore Windfarm Repowering Project will not impact on the operations at Donegal Airport. The Irish Aviation Authority will need to be informed of the increase to the turbine elevation in order to update the aeronautical charts. There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-
eircom Limited	Thomas Sheridan	thomas.sheridan@eir.ie / 091 773 615 / 085 1742 191	Emails from Thomas Sheridan dated 11.04.2019 and 15.04.2019, no impact anticipated.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-
ESB Telecoms Ltd		info@esbtelecoms.ie	No response received to date (07.10.2019).	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-
Three (Mosaic)	Gerry Callan	Gerry.Callan@three.ie / 086 3884 246	Email correspondence with Gerry Callan on 01.04.2019 and 11.04.2019, 100m buffer zone sought from links to ensure no impact on transmission network.	Recommendations to be followed in the email dated the 11.04.2019 in relation to the siting and design of the wind turbines.	3.3.4
RTÉ	Matthew Craig	matthew.craig@2m.ie / 01 208 2261 / 087 7509 955	Email from Matthew Craig, Project Engineer, Projects and Coverage Planning, 2RN on 04.10.2019: "We predict that there is a low risk of any interference to television viewers from the replacement of the turbines at Barnesmore."	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	12.3.3
Virgin Media Television	Paul Driver	Paul.Driver@virginmedia.ie / 01 245 8586 / 087 6287 133	Email from Paul Driver dated 26.07.2019, confirming that Virgin Media does not have any record of underground services at this location.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	12.3.3

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Vodafone (Netshare)	Sean Lyons	sean.lyons@vodafone.com / 087 7758 117	Email from Sean Lyons dated 01.04.2019 confirming that Turbine 6 is closest to the Vodafone links, but is still approximately 970m away from it. There are no other links in close proximity.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	
Air Navigation					
Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)	Christophe O'Brien	Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie 01 603 1492	Letter from Deirdre Forrest, Corporate Affairs dated 16.07.2019 and email from Christophe O'Brien dated 22.10.2019.	The IAA outlined three items in the event of planning consent being granted; " <i>the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to: (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with a minimum of 30 days prior notification of their erection.</i> " These three items are incorporated into the EIAR.	-
Ecology					
An Taisce	Ian Lumley	heritage@antaisce.org / 01 454 1786	Email from Ian Lumley dated 14.06.2019 which states that Particular consideration is required on flight paths of migratory birds, foraging and breeding areas for raptors, peat displacement, and cumulative impact with other existing and proposed wind farms.	There are a number of recommendations set out in the email from An Taisce that potentially have implications for the EIA and design of the project. These recommendations are being considered in the design by JOD and the relevant sub-consultants.	Birds - 7.X (TBC) Peat Displacement – Chapter 8
Bat Conservation Ireland		info@batconservationireland.org .	No response received to date (07.10.2019).	No response received from Bat Conservation Ireland.	-
Birdwatch Ireland	Fintan Kelly	info@birdwatchireland.ie / 01 908 1472	Email with attached letter received from Fintan Kelly, Policy Officer, dated 19.06.2019 with concerns regarding: Barnesmore Bog NHA, Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC, Dunragh Loughs/Pettigo Plateau SAC; impact on all water bodies; an assessment on various breeding and overwintering species within the site.	<p>There are a number of recommendations set out in the letter from Birdwatch Ireland that would potentially have implications for the EIA and design of the project. There are a number of concerns raised by Birdwatch Ireland that should be included in the overall EIA. A cumulative impact assessment should be carried out which must consider the impacts of other wind farm developments, forestry, turf-cutting and overgrazing on these habitats at a local and regional level.</p> <p>Potential negative impacts of the proposed development on the qualifying interests [3110] Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals, [7220] Petrifying Springs*, [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) and [1106] Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) should be assessed.</p> <p>The EIA and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) are accompanied by an ornithological assessment which are in line with the Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore wind farms or other relevant species-specific best practice survey guidelines.</p> <p>The points noted by Birdwatch Ireland. are already being covered as part of the EIA.</p>	Chapter 6, 7 and 9.
Development Applications Unit (DAU), Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Sinéad O'Brien	manager.dau@chg.gov.ie / 053 9117528	<p>Email from Alison Joyce, Higher Executive Officer dated 13.06.2019 (acknowledgement).</p> <p>Letter from Sinéad O'Brien dated 25.07.19 on EIAR scope items relating to ecological surveys, hedgerows, watercourse and wetlands, bats, alien invasive species, bird surveys, impact assessment, Construction Management Plans, Cumulative and ex situ impacts, Appropriate Assessment, post-construction monitoring, licences and baseline data.</p>	<p>Response received from The DAU dated 25.07.19 containing general scoping comments for EIAR, AA and licensing requirements</p> <p>There are a number of observations and recommendations contained in the letter received from The DAU that must be factored into the overall EIA and Project Design. Further discussions to be held with the DAU with respect to peatland conservation and data requests.</p> <p>Further consultations will be taken forward directly with NPWS on Peatland (Brian Lucas), specific scoping questions (James Fitzpatrick) and data requests (Caitriona Douglas).</p>	Chapters 6, 7 and 9.

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Irish Peatland Conservation Council	Tristram Whyte	bogs@ipcc.ie / 045 860 133	Email with letter from Tristram Whyte, Conservation Policy & Fundraising Officer dated 30.08.2019.	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council noted that "they would like to see that no new hardstands are created and that the length of road which has caused scarring through the blanket bog habitat be reduced as much as possible. The peatland lost through this habitat fragmentation (road infrastructure) should be reinstated/restored and added to the NHA to increase the amount of ANNEX I habitat protected (please liaise with NPWS to see if this is feasible). There is also an opportunity here to monitor and report on any restoration works undertaken within the blanket bog."	Chapter 6
Irish Wildlife Trust		enquiries@iwt.ie / 01 860 2839	No response received to date (07/10/2019).	-	-
The Northern Ireland Bat Group		secretary@bats-ni.org.uk / 048 9039 5264	No response received to date (07/10/2019).	-	-
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) NI	Roisin Kearney	Roisin.Kearney@rspb.org.uk / 048 9069 9098	Email with attachment from Roisin Kearney, Conservation Officer (Planning) received on 08.07.2019 noting that they do not manage any site-specific data for the proposed site because of the location in the Republic of Ireland. She also noted various other bodies to contact.	Recommendations to consult with Bird Watch Ireland. There are a number of recommendations/observations contained in the RSPB letter of response which should be factored into the overall design and EIA for the project. These are noted and will be factored into the EIA/Design.	Chapters 6, 7 and 9.
Soils and Water					
Geological Survey Ireland	Siobhán Power	Siobhan.Power@DCCAE.gov.ie / 01 678 2896	Email with attachment from Siobhán Power on 08.07.2019 encouraging the use of their Map Viewer when undergoing the planning process.	There are several recommendations and observations in the letter dated 08.07.2019 which should be included in the EIA, in relation to Groundwater and guidance with respect to the availability of data on the GSI website. These will be addressed in Chapter 9	Chapter 9
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)	Brendan Maguire	Brendan.Maguire@fisheriesireland.ie / 071 98 51435	Email from Brendan Maguire, Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer received on 08.07.2019. Letter attached outlining general guidance, mitigation measures and recommendations relating to potential impacts to watercourses from windfarm projects.	There are a number of recommendations that should be factored into the overall project design and during the construction period. These will be considered in the design and factored in the ecology/hydrology assessments.	Chapter 9
Other					
Coillte	Carol Ryan	carol.ryan@coillte.ie	No response received to date (07/10/2019).	-	-
Irish Water	Suzanne Dempsey	spatialplanning@water.ie / 01 892 5000	Response received on the 08.08.2019. Recommendation made that site investigations should be carried out prior to the beginning of construction along with proposal for dealing with the existing services.	The response letter sets out several general recommendations for EIA projects in terms of water services that should be factored into the project design and EIA.	Chapter 9
Health Service Executive	Finan Gallagher	finan.gallagher@hse.ie / 074 912 3759	Letter received by post on the 24.06.2019 from Finan Gallagher, Principal Environmental Health Officer. Recommendation that the following matters be considered in the EIAR: Public Consultation; Opportunity for Health Gain; Noise & Vibration; Shadow Flicker; Air Quality; Water Quality; Geological Impacts and Ancillary facilities.	The letter from the HSE sets out several Environmental Health Impacts to be included in the EIAR. These are recommendation rather than any fundamental objections to the project proposals. These are noted and will be factored into the EIA/Design.	Chapters 1, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 11.
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Michael McCormack	info@tii.ie / 01 646 3600	Letter received by post from Michael McCormack, Senior Land Use Planner on 20.06.2019. General guidance given for the preparation of the EIAR.	General guidance notes for the preparation of an EIAR which may affect the national road network. The recommendations and observations will be taken into consideration as part of the project design.	Chapter 14
Údarás na Gaeltachta	-	dnag@udaras.ie / 074 956 0100	No response received to date (07/10/2019).	The application site is not in a Gaeltacht area and therefore they are unlikely to comment on the project proposals.	-
Environmental Protection Agency	Teresa Roche	info@epa.ie / 021 487 5540	Phone call between AK (JOD) and Teresa Roche on 28.06.2019. Verbal discussion confirmed that the EPA will not be formally responding to the Scoping Request.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design other than adherence to the EPA guidance on the preparation of EIARs.	-
Department of Housing Planning and Local Government	Niamh Redmond	MINISTER@housing.gov.ie	Email from Niamh Redmond, Private Secretary dated 14.06.2019 acknowledging the scoping request. Further e-mail dated 29.07.19. The response received from The DHPLG confirms that they will not be providing any observations or submissions on the scoping document.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-

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The Arts Council	-	reception@artscouncil.ie / 01 618 0200	No response received to date (07/10/2019).	-	-
Corporate Support Unit Department of Communications Climate Change and Natural Resources	-	corporatesupport.unit@dcca.gov.ie / 01 678 3217	Phone call between AK (JOD) and Geraldine Healy on 26.06. 2019. Verbal discussions between parties confirmed that the Department do not provide feedback and leave it to the Planning Authority to provide comments and feedback.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-
Fáilte Ireland	Yvonne Jackson	planning.applications@failteireland.ie / 01 554 7224	Email from Yvonne Jackson on 04.07.2019 with Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the treatment of tourism in an EIS.	The response received from Fáilte Ireland set out Guidelines how on the topic of tourism should be treated in the EIA. These shall be considered in the preparation of the assessment.	Chapter 12
OPW (Office for Public Works)	Ger Cafferkey	Ger.Cafferkey@opw.ie / 046 942 6000	Letter received by post and email from Nora Carey (nora.carey@opw.ie) on 27.08.2019 with the following comments: 1. The footprint of the Barnesmore Windfarm does not coincide with any existing or proposed OPW Drainage or Flood Relief Scheme; 1. Construction or alteration of any watercourse crossing will require Section 47/50 consent as per the Arterial Drainage Act of 1945; 3. The development shall follow The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009).f	Reference to be made in the EIAR to the fact that Section 50 applications will be sought for any river/stream crossings.	-
The Heritage Council		mail@heritagecouncil.ie / 056 777 0777	Phone call between AK (JOD) and Receptionist on 26.06.2019. The Receptionist noted the email was forwarded to Alison Harvey. Alison would have provided feedback by now on the letter if she had any comments. Verbal discussion with The Heritage Council confirmed that The Heritage Council would have responded if they had any comments.	There are no implications for the EIA/Design.	-
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	Patricia O'Keefe	GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@dtas.gov.ie / 01 604 1178	E-mail dated 26.07.2019 from Patricia O'Keefe. E-mail confirms receipt of scoping document and confirmation that the individual divisions will contact JOD should they require any further information. No further response received to date (16.08.19).	-	-
The Local Authority Waters Programme	-	info@lawaters.ie / 0761 06 6230	Phone call between AK (JOD) and Siobhan on 01.07.2019. Siobhan noted that the LAWP are not a statutory body so won't be responding.	-	-
The International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) Irish Group	-	info@iah-ireland.org	No response received to date (07/10/2019).	-	-
Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission, Loughs Agency	-	general@loughs-agency.org / 048 71342 100	Letter from Declan Lawlor, Environmental Officer Received 25.11.2019.	Response included a condition that stormwater be passed through a pollution interceptor and flow attenuation prior to discharge. Informatives note best environmental practice be demonstrated when working near watercourses and a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) be developed. The condition and informatives are considered in the EIAR.	-
Tourism Northern Ireland	-	info@tourismni.com / 048 9023 1221	No response received to date (07/10/2019).	-	-
Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI)	-	gsni@detini.gov.uk / 048 9038 8462	No response received to date (07/10/2019).	-	-
Department for Infrastructure	K. McFerran	dcu@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk / 0044 300 200 7830	Letter from K McFerran dated 19.07.2019. The DFI provided no comments and recommended that direct consultation with Derry City and Strabane District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.	-	-

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Derry City and Strabane District Council	-	planning@derrystrabane.com / 0044 028 7125 3253	Letter received on 16.08.2019 acknowledging receipt of the scoping document.	-	-
NI Water (via Derry City and Strabane District Council)			Email received on 27.08.2019 with NI Water response: "The EIA should identify the likely effects of the proposed development upon surface water, ground water, potential of flooding and drainage requirements. It should also detail measures to mitigate against any identified detrimental effects in respect of Hydrology, Geology & Hydrogeology."	-	Chapters 8 & 9
Environmental Health Service (via Derry City and Strabane District Council)			Email received on 24.09.2019 with Environmental Health Service response: "The separation distance from the nearest turbines associated with the proposed wind farm development to noise sensitive receptors in Northern Ireland would appear to be at least 5-6km. It would be highly unlikely that noise from the proposed development would result in any adverse impact on amenity at noise sensitive properties within Northern Ireland. The development is also approximately 5km from the closest wind farm (Meenakeernan) within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area, therefore an increase in cumulative noise levels from the wind energy development at noise sensitive property is also unlikely. That being said the Environmental Health Service would highlight the differences in the noise guidelines both in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland."	Review the noise assessment criteria and ETSU-R-97.	Chapter 10
DFI Rivers (via Derry City and Strabane District Council)			Email received on 24.09.2019 with DFI Rivers response: "It is outside Rivers Agency's area of expertise to express an opinion as to whether the proposed development would or would not be EIA development, and that flood risk and drainage assessment are addressed in the Environmental Statement."	-	Chapter 9
Historic Environment Division (via Derry City and Strabane District Council)			Email received on 24.09.2019 with Historic Environment Division response: "Should it be determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required then Historic Environment Division: Historic Monuments (HED: HM) would require an archaeological section within it. However, if it is determined that an EIA is not necessary then HED: HM would still require an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) with a particular focus on the archaeological features of the immediate area to be submitted with any subsequent planning application."	-	Chapter 13
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (via Derry City and Strabane District Council)			Email received on 01.10.2019 with response from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs: "Land, Soil and Air: The foundations of wind turbines have the potential to impact on the groundwater environment. An assessment of the development's potential risk to impact on the groundwater environment is required. This typically consists of a Water Features Survey as part of a Hydrogeological Assessment. Further information is provided within 'Environmental information required' and 'Baseline environmental information'. This information is required either through an EIA or in support of a full planning application. Natural Heritage and Conservation Areas: Based on the information submitted, NIEA Natural Environment Division considers that the proposal is likely to have significant environmental effects with regard to the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015."	-	Chapters 6, 7, 8 & 9
Department for Infrastructure (via Derry City and Strabane District Council)			Email received on 01.10.2019 with response from the Department for Infrastructure: "DfI Roads will require details regarding delivery of materials from or through Northern Ireland. If any deliveries are anticipated via Northern Ireland, DfI Roads will require to be consulted on the Traffic Management Plan and agree an inspection scheme to establish the condition of the road network. If damage is caused to the road network and repairs are required, agreement	-	Chapter 14

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			will be required on how repairs will be undertaken by the Developer. The provision of passing bays will require to be assessed by the Department along with any other road infrastructure improvements required to facilitate the delivery of materials and abnormal loads."		
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.	-	planning@fermanaghomagh.com / 0044 0300 303 1777	E-mail dated 14.08.2019 from The Planning Department confirming that the Council will not be providing any opinion at this stage on the suitability or otherwise of the proposal.	-	-