

Cllr. David Healy
Green Party/ Comhaontas Glas
Howth/Malahide Ward
54, Páirc Éabhóra
Beann Éadair
Co. Bh.Á.C.
D13 DY28

Dáta | Date

Ár dTag | Our Ref.

Bhur dTag | Your Ref.

26 August 2024

TII24-128353

RE: Onshore routing of electricity connections for renewable energy - M1 motorway Fingal.

Dear Cllr. Healy,

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 August 2024 in relation to the above. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) supports and acknowledges that the availability of a safe, secure, and reliable supply of electricity is an essential requirement for Ireland's current and future economic wellbeing and that the transition from conventional fossil fuel power generation to sustainable forms of renewable energy supply such as wind and solar power is an essential development if Ireland is to meet its obligations to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

TII fully supports Government policy in this regard and seeks to ensure that the subject development can proceed complementary to safeguarding the strategic function and levels of safety on the national road network. TII welcomes and is open to, any initiative to improve the energy security of the State and acknowledges the strategic importance of providing security in the energy supply.

To ensure coordination and effective routing of electricity connections for energy projects, TII is part of a High Voltage (HV) forum with representation from the transport and energy public sectors tasked with developing guidance on this matter. Significant progress has been made on this guidance which sees greater collaboration and coordination to ensure the effective delivery of energy projects but also the maintenance of the significant state investment made in the nation's road network.

In this instance, TII advises that this application was not referred to our offices despite statements attributed to TII made by the applicant in its planning documentation and also the nature of interactions with the national road network. Confirmation of non-referral is confirmed by the planning application form appendices, which includes a schedule of notified prescribed bodies.

TII has noticed that there appears to be a precedent for the new marine development application before An Bord Pleanála to not be referred to TII. This matter has been raised with An Bord Pleanála on foot of your correspondence. We await a response.

TII's referral omission is of concern given that the agents approached TII previously with respect to a generic EIA scoping of the EIA and also through appropriate pre-planning discussions managed and facilitated by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Unfortunately, neither Fingal County Council nor An Bord Pleanála, as the planning authorities concerned with decisions associated with this proposal, engaged directly with TII on this proposal. Therefore, TII was not consulted by the authorities concerned during pre-planning discussions with respect to options or alternatives, as well as any other impacts on the national road.

In addition, TII was not afforded an opportunity to raise issues in observation to An Bord Pleanála via the long-established statutory consultee process.

The issue of the management of interagency consultation during the pre-planning stage on such direct applications may be an issue you wish to raise with Fingal County Council planning executive team. Fingal County Council are an established party to these discussions with An Bord Pleanála.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Regulatory and Administration Executive