



Ms. Helen Lancaster
Senior EIA Advisor on Behalf of the Secretary of State
Environmental Services
Central Operations
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

By email only to: AwelyMor@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

9 August 2022

**RE: Proposed Application by Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) for
an Order Granting Development Consent for the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (the
Proposed Development)**

Dear Ms. Lancaster,

I refer to your letter of 3 August 2022 giving formal notification that the above proposed development has been accepted for examination. I wish to confirm, as indicated in my letter of 30 September 2021, that Ireland will participate in the transboundary EIA procedure and will hold a public consultation in this regard.

The notification received proposes a six-week consultation period from the date of the letter (3 August 2022) with a suggested deadline for comments at 13 September 2022. I wish to advise that this suggested timeframe is not sufficient given the voluminous environmental documentation accompanying this application, the time of year i.e. many of the national authorities that need to be consulted will have staff taking annual leave and, due to the statutory process to be followed in Ireland.

Under Irish planning regulations, which transpose our obligations under the Espoo Convention, one or more local authorities are required to carry out transboundary public consultations in respect of individual proposed projects. Due to the nature of the proposed development it is not possible to exclude any local authority area from the potential impacts of the proposal and therefore the consultation must cover the entire State.



The Department requires time to determine the most relevant information from the application documentation to make available to the public to ensure they can adequately participate in the public consultation that will be held. We will also need time to co-ordinate materials with each planning authority involved in this process to fulfil our statutory obligations.

For the reasons set out above, it will not be possible for the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to co-ordinate a transboundary public consultation process in Ireland to meet the proposed closing date of 13 September 2022 due to our legislative requirements and the nature of the consultation.

In this regard, attention is drawn to Article 5 of the Espoo Convention, which states:

“.....The Parties shall agree, at the commencement of such consultations, on a reasonable time frame for the duration of the consultation period. Any such consultations may be conducted through an appropriate joint body, where one exists”

I understand from the notification letter of 3 August 2022 that the timeframe for examination of the Development Consent Order application by the Examining Authority is six months. This Department is estimating a minimum period of six weeks will be required to prepare the relevant documentation to be made available during the public consultation period. I will be in touch again early in September to confirm the public consultation period, which will need to run for a minimum of four weeks.

If you have any queries in relation to this letter, please contact Declan Grehan at transboundaryeia@housing.gov.ie or on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Declan Grehan

Assistant Principal

EU & International Planning Regulation

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Ireland