



Ms. Hannah Terry
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: MonaOffshoreWindProject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

13 May 2024

**RE: Proposed Application by Mona Offshore Wind Limited (the Applicant) for an
Order Granting Development Consent for the Mona Offshore Wind Project
(the Proposed Development)**

Dear Ms. Terry,

I refer to your letter of 30 April 2024 giving formal notification that the above proposed development has been accepted for examination. I wish to confirm, as indicated in my letter of 19 December 2022, 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 (30 April 2024) with a suggested deadline for comments at 11 June 2024. 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, Local Government and Heritage to co-ordinate a transboundary public consultation process in Ireland to meet the proposed closing date of 11 June 2024 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 30 April 2024 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 June 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 me 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