



Our ref AR/PD/96915/00002
Your ref

SONI LTD
Castlereagh House
12 Manse Road
BELFAST
BT6 9RT

By email

Direct tel	+44 (0)333 006 0967	Date	01 April 2016
Direct fax	+44 (0)333 006 0611	Email	Andrew.Ryan@tltsolicitors.com

Dear Sirs,

Alternative Connection Application and Offer Process Proposal – Consultation Response

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the NIE & SONI consultation on '*Alternative Connection Application and Offer Process Proposal*'. We make this response on behalf of Michael and Brian Quinn as the planning applicants for Mullaghturk Wind Farm. The application is currently at an advanced stage in the planning process having been in development for approximately 15 years and is currently awaiting a decision by the Planning Appeals Commission. A connection application was also submitted for this wind farm in August 2016.

We fully support the detailed response provided by the Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group and set out our further comments on the consultation below.

We are very concerned by the batch process being proposed by NIE and SONI. We agree with NIRIG's alternative proposals to revert to the requirement for planning to apply for a grid connection. We understand that this will probably require licence/legislative changes but we believe that the time spent changing the licences will serve the industry better than processing a large number of applications through a batch process which in our opinion will produce a large number of unviable grid connection offers. The project history for Mullaghturk clearly demonstrates the challenges of bringing a renewable project to the consented stage. When a project achieves planning consent there is a substantially higher level of certainty that it will proceed to completion. With the increasing requirement for shared assets this certainty is critical for the shared assets to proceed to construction without introducing an unreasonable

level of risk to the developer or the Northern Ireland consumer. For these reasons we strongly recommend that SONI/NIE revert to the requirement for planning to apply for a grid connection.

We trust that the above is of assistance and do not hesitate in contacting us if you have any queries or wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'TLT NI LLP' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Ryan
Partner
for TLT NI LLP