



Irish Wind Energy Association,  
Sycamore House,  
Millennium Park,  
Osberstown,  
Naas,  
Co. Kildare.

Date: 27 January 2015

By email to [info@eirgrid.com](mailto:info@eirgrid.com)

**Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) Response to the EirGrid Consultation on “Reviewing and Improving our Public Consultation Process”**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Irish Wind Energy Association (“IWEA”) is Ireland’s leading renewable energy representative body and as such has an active interest in the potential for renewable energy, and in particular wind energy, in Ireland and so IWEA feels it is critically important to make a submission to this EirGrid consultation.

First of all IWEA would like to commend EirGrid for the comprehensive approach to the review of its public consultation processes. We consider the review to be wide-ranging and informed. IWEA welcomes the openness of engagement and the clear three theme approach, which we feel will certainly ensure greater public engagement and participation in the decision making around our Irish energy future, and the need for a modern infrastructure which is fit for purpose.

IWEA would warmly endorse the need for an increasingly participative approach; we consider EirGrid to be stepping in its desire to ensure that internal culture change matches to stronger relationship building externally; and finally we are strongly of the view that there is a real value in encouraging leadership and advocacy. In this third regard, IWEA would welcome the specific mention of the role of “*associations who are acknowledged as key influencers.*” As the leading association for the Irish renewable energy sector, IWEA would consider ourselves as a proactive partner, willing to step out in explaining the benefits of an effective, modern and climate friendly Irish electricity system.

Although, EirGrid acknowledges the specific Irish context of its interaction, we do welcome the international element of the review, as the question of how to ensure a modern and effective electricity system for all, is a common concern across Europe and the globe.

Finally, IWEA would generally welcome the “Conclusions and Commitments” as set out within the main consultation report. We consider that they constitute a strong and coherent framework on which to seek the social licence to operate, and to deliver an Irish electricity system which will deliver for our communities, our economy and our climate.

We very much welcome this initial opportunity to make a submission and look forward to engaging constructively with you in the future as this proceeds.

Yours sincerely,

*\*sent by email, bears no signature*

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Caitríona Diviney  
Chief Operating Officer  
Irish Wind Energy Association