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22_IW_FP_20_DonegalCDPV2

Re: Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024 – Proposed Variation No. 2 Wind Energy Policy Framework

Dear Sir/Madam,

Irish Water (IW) acknowledges receipt of your letter regarding the aforementioned Variation. We have reviewed the proposed Variation to the Donegal County Development Plan and have the following comments:

Proposed wind energy developments must ensure existing or planned Irish Water assets and drinking water sources are protected, and that access is maintained at all times. Early engagement is requested in this regard.

A key concern is the potential impact of wind energy developments on the contributing catchments of water sources and maintaining security of supply. Such developments must comply with the relevant objectives of the Development Plan e.g. WES-O-4 and WES-O-5. Irish Water recommend reference be made within the proposed Variation to the need to protect drinking water sources.

We note that Lough Mourne and Lettermacaward drinking water sources have been categorised 'Not Normally Permissible' however, the catchment for the Illies Water Treatment Plant source remains 'Open to Consideration'. This is a major water supply source for the county, supplying the Regional Growth Centre of Letterkenny, and the catchment for the source is characterised by peaty soils that may be susceptible to landslides.

Wind energy developments shall also have regard for the significant number of ongoing and planned IW [projects in Donegal](#), and to the potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to IW discharges.

We also note that new or temporary connections to Irish Water networks are subject to our Connections Charging Policy. Further information on this process is available at: <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/>. If there is a possibility that Irish Water assets will need to be altered or diverted as a result of a proposed development, a diversion agreement may be required. Further information on this process is available at: <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/diversions/>.

Yours Sincerely,

Elaine Heneghan

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Forward Planning

Asset Strategy & Sustainability