FS007383 – Oriel Windfarm Limited, Site Investigations for the proposed offshore Oriel Wind Farm

Invitation for Public Submissions for Purpose of Conducting Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

Commenced 14/06/2022. Closed 14/07/2022.

Public Submission

1. Cooley Residents Group

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From: cooley residents[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday 13 July 2022 12:13
To: Housing ForeShoreORE <foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: FS007383 Oriel Windfarm S.I. – Consultation on Stage 2 AA

Good morning,

We are submitting our objection to the proposed Oriel Windfarm Foreshore License FS007383. We are completely against the size and scale of this development off Cooley Point (SAC) and Templetown Beach (Blue Flag) which are part of Tourism Ireland's Ancient East tourism campaign. This proposed development will completely industrialise our coast. It is within touching distance of our shore at just 5KM and the proposed height of the turbines is a massive 270M, almost as high as the Eiffel Tower. We have discovered in our research that UNECE has ruled that the manner in which the EU is implementing its renewable energy programme is not in compliance with the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters, namely the citizens human and environmental rights. Until this is enforced, Oriel will continue to get away with this proposed development so close to shore. They seem proud of what they call there extensive public consultation on this project; we would see this as more of being told not consulted. The parting shot from there project manager when we met with them was "this is going to happen". So much for there statement in the Foreshore license application "will allow for opportunities to participate in the consent process and provide feedback on relevant issues of concern".

As well as the high negative visual impact in a tourist area this proposed development will have, it will also adversely affect marine life, in particular crab & lobster breeding grounds. In a recent study by St Abbs Marine Station, it showed the negative impact the electromagnetic field had on lobsters growth, deforming their young to the point where they are incapable of ordinary movement. This will be detrimental to the local fisherman's livelihood. We are also faced with calamitous erosion problems on Cooley Point, a protected SAC under the EU habitats directive Natura 2000. When the turbine development began at Arklow Bank Windfarm residents felt the ground vibrate and noise onshore. What are we to expect when the deep investigation boreholes begin at this close proximity of 5KM. According to the Oriel proposal, it may require up to 3 drilled boreholes per wind turbine structure with a target depth of 50m below the seabed. Will we have more crumbling and undermining of our coast; cracked paving and walls? Who will be responsible if this

happens? Then there is the noise impact. When the last research vessel was in place in 2020 it could be heard almost constantly onshore. So we are understandably concerned about the noise, vibrations and flicker that 25 x 270M high turbines will emit 5KM from shore and our homes. In the rest of Europe there is an exclusion zone of 22KM where no wind turbines are allowed. Oriel continues to mislead everybody by claiming the proposed Windfarm is 22KM from Dundalk, but always fails to disclose that it is just 5KM from Cooley Point (SAC). Finally we would like to point out that when the Oriel Windfarm project first began the proposed turbines were 160M high and situated 8KM from Cooley Point (SAC), now they are proposed to be higher at 270M and even closer at 5KM. It defies logic.

We strongly object,

Cooley Residents Group.