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By Email Only: Claire.Whiteside@nienetworks.co.uk

Date: 02 March 2026

Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1431

Dear Claire,

Application for consent to a longer period for the issuance of a Connection Offer at 300M East of 33 Killymittan Ballinamallard, NIE Networks Reference: 25/11182.

Thank you for your letter received 13 February 2026 (the **Letter**) setting out an application (**the Application**) made by NIE Networks Limited (**NIE Networks**) for an extension to the period within which NIE Networks is required to make a connection offer (**the relevant Connection Offer**) for a Wind Generator (■), at **300M East of 33 Killymittan Ballinamallard**. The extended period now applied for expires on **8 September 2026**.

In this letter we shall refer to the person making the application for the relevant Connection Offer as the **Connection Applicant**.

1. The Application

The Letter describes the relevant background¹ to the Application. Reference is made to Condition 30 of NIE Networks' licence authorising participation in the activity of distribution (**the Licence**).²

¹ What follows is a summary of the Application. It is not intended to be a complete rehearsal. All parts of the Application have been considered in making the decision set out in this correspondence. Failure to mention parts of the Application (or related correspondence) should not be taken as representing any failure to have regard to those parts.

² [NIE Distribution Licence](#).

Condition 30 (6) (of the Licence) provides that (barring specified exceptions)³ NIE Networks is obliged to make an offer for connection to the distribution system *as soon as practicable* and (by operation of Condition 30 (6)(b)) *in any event within 3 months*

“after receipt by [NIE Networks] of an application containing all such information in relation to the required connection as [NIE Networks] may reasonably request.”

Condition 30 (6) is to be read alongside and reflects the provision made in Article 20(3) through to Article 20(5) of the Electricity (NI) Order 1992 (the **Electricity Order**).

Condition 30 (7) of the Licence allows NIE Networks to make an application to the Authority⁴ (following requisite consultation) for a consent (in writing) that the period specified in Condition 30 (6)(b) shall be substituted by a longer period and subject to any conditions as specified in the consent.

Significantly, the making – or grant - of a Condition 30(7) type application does not alter NIE Networks’ licence obligation⁵ (under Condition 30(6)(a)) to make a connection offer *as soon as practicable*. The primary obligation (recorded in Condition 30(6)(a) of the Licence and Article 20 the Electricity Order) - to make a connection offer *as soon as practicable* - remains.

NIE Networks states as part of the Application, that it received a valid application (for the Relevant Connection Offer) from the Connection Applicant on 2 October 2025, for a Wind Generator (■■■■), meaning the existing Condition 30 (6) period expired on 2 January 2026.

The Application (made in the Letter) is for consent – under Condition 30(7) - for a longer substituted Condition 30 (6)(b) period out to 8 September 2026.

³ Recorded in Article 21 of the [Electricity \(NI\) Order 1992](#) (the **Electricity Order**): see Condition 30(6) (d) of the Licence.

⁴ In this correspondence we use the words “us” “we” “our” “UR” “Utility Regulator” and “Authority” interchangeably to refer to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.

⁵ Which aligns with the statutory duties reflected in Articles 19 and 20 of the Electricity Order.

NIE Networks outlines in the application that the connection application is fourth in the connection queue at Ballinamallard West. The first three applicants in the queue have been issued 30 day decision letters regarding a connection offer, and if accepted NIE Networks says Connections Offers will be issued on 12 March 2026. NIE Networks says these applications had been subject to delay, awaiting the outcome of a SONI reassessment on available capacity in Enniskillen Main.

NIE Networks comments that, with multiple jobs looking to link into Ballinamallard West on the same circuit, further time is required to determine final capacity and reinforcements required. NIE Networks will be able to determine the required reinforcement by 10 June 2026 for the first three applicants in the queue, following the 90 day period to accept a connection offer. NIE Networks then requires a further 90 days to complete a full HV and LV network study, and issue required paperwork, relating to the Connection Offer for this Connection Applicant.

Therefore, NIE Networks states it requires extension of the Condition 30 timeline to 8 September 2026.

Reflecting the points above, NIE Networks explains the rationale for seeking the consent sought in the Application:

- 1. As there are multiple jobs into Ballinamallard West all on the same circuit, NIE Networks require further time to determine final capacity and what reinforcement is required.*
- 2. NIE Networks will be able to determine required reinforcement on 10th June 2026 for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd customers and then will be able to progress this application. As these customers will have 90 days to accept their offer.*
- 3. NIE Networks will require a further 90 days to determine this as the application will require a full HV and LV network study and time to issue required paperwork.*

NIE Networks states not granting the extension would result in a refusal to connect and would prevent ■■■ connecting to the network.

We note, also, that whilst the Application was submitted to the Authority with the necessary information - as per the Authority's 2017 Electricity Connections Decision⁶ (the **Decision Paper Guidance**) – it was not received in line with the expectations set out in the Decision Paper

⁶ Electricity Connections Decision FINAL.pdf.

Guidance.

The Decision Paper Guidance states that the Authority “*would expect to receive a request from the licensee at least two weeks before the end of the three month connection application period.*” The Authority considers that the connection application period (in this case) expired on 2 January 2026, and therefore the submission date (of the Application) of 12 February 2026 does not fulfil the stated expectations. The Application offers no explanation for the departure from the expectations set out in the Guidance.

2. Consultation associated with the Application

Condition 30(7)(a) of the Licence provides that NIE Networks must consult with the Connection Applicant when making an application (for extension) under Condition 30(7).

The Application sets out such consultation with the Connection Applicant, via email of 19 December 2025. We note that this consultation references extension of the period for making a connection offer from 31 December 2025, not 2 January 2026.

The Connection Applicant has not provided a response at the time of the Letter.

3. The Authority’s decision

In making our decision on the Application we have regard to:

- (a) our published Decision Paper Guidance⁷
- (b) our principal objective (and related statutory objectives) under Article 12 of the Energy (NI) Order 2003
- (c) the contents of the Application
- (d) the consultation with the Connection Applicant

Having considered the matter fully, the Authority hereby confirms that it

⁷ [Electricity Connections Review Decision Paper | Utility Regulator \(uregni.gov.uk\)](https://www.uregni.gov.uk/electricity-connections-review-decision-paper)

provides the consent sought in the Application. It follows that the period under Condition 30(6)(b) of the Licence (in respect of the application for connection made by the Connection Applicant for the Wind Generator (■■■) at **33 Killymittan, Ballinamallard** is now extended until **8 September 2026**. We consider the Application justified for the reasons set out in the Letter.

We would also take this opportunity to confirm that the (extended consented to) period ending 8 September 2026 is a “long stop” date.

The obligation under Condition 30 of the Licence is (now), subject to applicable exceptions,⁸ to make a Relevant Connection Offer to the Connection Applicant for the Wind Generator (■■■) at **33 Killymittan, Ballinamallard**, “as soon as practicable” and “in any event no later than” 8 September 2026. The Licence obligation is not (now) simply to offer connection terms by 8 September 2026.

This decision will be published and placed on the Register in the normal way.

Please do return to us should you require any clarification.

Yours sincerely,



Jillian Ferris

Head of Networks

Duly authorised by the Authority

⁸ Consonant with NIE Networks' licence obligations and its statutory duties set out in Articles 12 and 19 of the Electricity Order.