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

Date: 02 March 2026

Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1432

Dear Claire,

Application for consent to a longer period for the issuance of a Connection Offer at 35 Killymittan Ballinamallard, NIE Networks Reference: 25/12213.

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 **35 Killymittan Ballinamallard**. The extended period now applied for expires on **7 March 2027**.

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 11 November 2025, for a Wind Generator (■■■■), meaning the existing Condition 30 (6) period expired on 11 February 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 7 March 2027.

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 fifth 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 7 December 2026 for the first four 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 7 March 2027.

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 Guidance.

The Decision Paper Guidance states that the Authority “would expect to

⁶ Electricity Connections Decision FINAL.pdf.

connection made by the Connection Applicant for the Wind Generator (■) at **35 Killymittan, Ballinamallard** is now extended until **7 March 2027**. 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 7 March 2027 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 **35 Killymittan, Ballinamallard**, “as soon as practicable” and “in any event no later than” 7 March 2027. The Licence obligation is not (now) simply to offer connection terms by 7 March 2027.

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.