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

Date: 27 March 2026

Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1443

Dear Claire,

Application for consent to a longer period for the issuance of a Connection Offer at Armoy Wind Farm, NIE Networks Reference: 26/01106.

Thank you for your letter received 13 March 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 **Armoy Wind Farm**. The extended period now applied for expires on **31 July 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 3 February 2026, for a Wind Generator (■■■■), meaning the existing Condition 30 (6) period expires on 3 May 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 31 July 2026.

NIE Networks outlines in the application that the Applicant in this case applied for the connection, after changes to the statement of charges had

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.

been made, regarding installation of second transformers at cluster substations.

Further to this, NIE Networks references that it is awaiting approval from the UR to allow the second transformer to be installed at Rasharkin Main, which will allow an offer for this project to be designed and prepared. NIE Networks notes that it would expect this determination by the end of April 2026 which will then require a further three months to complete a full HV network study and issue required paperwork, providing the applied for date of 31 July 2026.

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

1. *NIE Networks has currently submitted approval to the Utility Regulator for the 2nd Transformer to be installed at Rasharkin Main.*
2. *NIE Networks expect this determination by end of April 2026.*
3. *NIE Networks will be able to design and prepare Connection Offer for this project.*
4. *NIE Networks will require a further 3 months to determine this as the application will require a full HV 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.

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 11 March 2026.

The Connection Applicant provided a response via email on 12 March 2026, confirming, “no objection to the proposed extension of time application request to the Utility Regulator.”

3. The Authority's decision

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

- (a) our published Decision Paper Guidance⁶
- (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 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 **Armoy Wind Farm** is now extended until **31 July 2026**. We consider the Application justified for the reasons set out in the Letter.

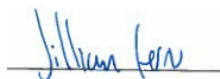
We would also take this opportunity to confirm that the (extended consented to) period ending 31 July 2026 is a “long stop” date.

The obligation under Condition 30 of the Licence is (now), subject to applicable exceptions,⁷ to make a Relevant Connection Offer to the Connection Applicant for the Wind Generator (■) at **Armoy Wind Farm**, “as soon as practicable” and “in any event no later than” 31 July 2026. The Licence obligation is not (now) simply to offer connection terms by 31 July 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

⁶ [Electricity Connections Review Decision Paper | Utility Regulator \(uregni.gov.uk\)](https://www.uregni.gov.uk/decisions/2024/07/01/2024-07-01-001)

⁷ Consonant with NIE Networks' licence obligations and its statutory duties set out in Articles 12 and 19 of the Electricity Order.