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

**Date: 27 March 2026**

**Our Ref: NET/E/JF/1445**

Dear Claire,

**Application for consent to a longer period for the issuance of a Connection Offer at Cullion Wind Farm, NIE Networks Reference: 25/15022.**

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 **Cullion Wind Farm**. The extended period now applied for expires on **30 June 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 background<sup>1</sup> to the Application. Reference is made to Condition 30 of NIE Networks' licence authorising participation in the activity of distribution (**the Licence**).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> [NIE Distribution Licence](#).

Condition 30 (6) (of the Licence) provides that (barring specified exceptions)<sup>3</sup> 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 Authority<sup>4</sup> (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 obligation<sup>5</sup> (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 24 December 2025, for a Wind Generator (■■■■), meaning the existing Condition 30 (6) period expires on 24 March 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 30 June 2027.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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 studies being carried out by SONI regarding capacity on the 110kV network at Tremoge. NIE Networks comments these studies will be due at the end of December 2026.

Depending on the results from these studies, a construction offer and approval from the UR will be required to allow the second transformer to be installed at Tremoge Main, this 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 March 2027. A further three months will be then needed to complete a full HV network study and issue required paperwork, providing the applied for date of 30 June 2027.

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

- 1. NIE Networks are currently waiting on studies from SONI regarding capacity on the 110kV network at Tremoge which will be due at the end of December 2026.*
- 2. Depending on the outcome of these results, a Construction Offer and Approval from the UR will then be established at the end of March 2027.*
- 3. Following this, NIE Networks will then be able to design and prepare a 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.

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

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) expires on 24 March

2026, and therefore the submission date (of the Application) of 13 March 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 11 March 2026.

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

## **3. The Authority's decision**

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

- (a) our published Decision Paper Guidance<sup>6</sup>
- (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 **Cullion Wind Farm** is now extended until **30 June 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 30 June 2027 is a “long stop” date.

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<sup>6</sup> [Electricity Connections Review Decision Paper | Utility Regulator \(uregni.gov.uk\)](https://www.uregni.gov.uk/electricity-connections-review-decision-paper)

The obligation under Condition 30 of the Licence is (now), subject to applicable exceptions,<sup>7</sup> to make a Relevant Connection Offer to the Connection Applicant for the Wind Generator (■■■■) at **Cullion Wind Farm**, “as soon as practicable” and “in any event no later than” 30 June 2027. The Licence obligation is not (now) simply to offer connection terms by 30 June 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**

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