

DW CONSULTANCY LTD

15th May 2017

Ciaran MacCann,
Compliance and Network Operations,
Utility Regulator,
Queens House,
14 Queens Street,
Belfast
BT1 6ED

[Sent by email to ciaran.maccann@uregni.gov.uk]

Re: Review of Electricity Distribution and Transmission Connections Policy
Consultation on next steps

Dear Mr MacCann,

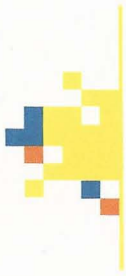
We, DW Consultancy Ltd (DWC), are wind farm project developers operating in both Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (RoI). We have been active in the Northern Irish wind industry for over ten years, and we have developed a large portfolio of operational and consented (c.175MW+), and proposed (c.70MW) onshore wind farm projects. We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Utility Regulator's consultation on the '*Review of Electricity Distribution and Transmission Connections Policy*'.

In the first instance, DWC strongly supports the detailed response provided by the Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group (NIRIG) to this 'consultation on next steps'. We also refer back to our original submission on the '*Call for Evidence*' dated 10th January 2017, whereby we identified four key points, which remain valid. These are reproduced hereunder for ease of reference:

1. Need for a robust regulatory framework to support connection policy. The Utility Regulator should have additional powers to set connection policy rather than require legislative changes every time connection policy needs to be amended,
2. Undertake transmission network planning process to facilitate the development of the wider transmission system,
3. Maintain clustering as the approach for developing shared transmission assets, and
4. To revert to a connection offer process with planning as a requirement. The planning requirement should be re-introduced immediately and the necessary changes to legislation be undertaken in parallel to ensure the policy cannot be undermined again in the future.

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Please do not hesitate in contacting us if you have any queries or wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Barry O'Kane', is written over a horizontal line.

**Barry O'Kane, B.Eng, C.Eng, MIEI,
Chartered Engineer
On Behalf of: DW Consultancy Ltd.**