

Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 V6V6

Connolly Station, Dublin 1, D01 V6V6

T 01 703 4293 E foi@irishrail.ie W www.irishrail.ie



[Redacted]

Re: FOI request IE_FOI_480

Dear [Redacted],

I refer to your request dated 24th May 2021 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, which was received on by my office on that date, for records held by Iarnród Éireann.

Request:

Copies of documents and correspondence between Irish Rail and Eirgrid (all mediums) regarding the use or feasibility of using, the soon to be developed Greenway (old railway line running between Youghal and Cork City) for the proposed route of Cabling, used for the Celtic Interconnector.

The decision maker handling your request is Ms. Louise O'Riain.

Response:

I, [Redacted] Decision Maker have now made a final decision to part grant your request.

Please find response document and schedule of records attached.

Rights of appeal

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter, you can do so by writing to the FOI Unit, Corporate Communications, Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, Connolly Station, Amiens St, Dublin 1 or by e-mail to foi@irishrail.ie. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays, however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances.

The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact the FOI Officer by email at foi@irishrail.ie

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted] FOI Decision Maker, Iarnród Éireann

Freedom of Information Request:
 Schedule of Records for **IE_FOI_480** : Summary for Decision Making

Record No.	Date of Record	Brief Description	No. of Pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Section of Act if applicable	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
1	27.08.2021	Celtic Interconnector Letter of Consent 10-06-21_Redacted		1 Part Grant	S37	
2	27.08.2021	Celtic Interconnector Project - request for Letter of Consent_Redacted		3 Part Grant	S37	
3	27.08.2021	Disused Midleton-Youghal Railway line and the Celtic Interconnector Project_Redacted		3 Part Grant	S37	
4	27.08.2021	EirGrid and Celtic Interconnector_Redacted		2 Part Grant	S37	
5	27.08.2021	RE_FOI_2021_018 - third party consultation_Redacted		6 Part Grant	S37	
6	27.08.2021	Figure 1		1 Grant		

Signed: [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information / Data Protection Office

Senior Track & Structure Engineer, Limerick Junction Station, Co. Tipperary
Stáisiún Gabhal Luimnigh, Co. Tiobraid Árann

info@irishrail.ie W www.irishrail.ie

Consents and Planning Lead,
Celtic Interconnector Project.
c/o EirGrid.

Date: 10th of June 2021.

Re: Celtic Interconnector Letter of Consent.

Dear

Irish Rail acknowledges that EirGrid plc has the exclusive function to operate and ensure the maintenance of and, if necessary, develop a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient electricity transmission system, and to explore and develop opportunities for interconnection of its system with other systems pursuant to the provisions of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999 and S.I. No 445/2000. Consequently we hereby consent to the application for Approval by Eirgrid plc under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the proposed development of the Celtic Interconnector Project (An Bord Pleanála Project of Common Interest Ref. No. PCI0003) insofar as it relates to lands in the ownership and/or management control of Irish Rail.

The section of the line from Midleton to Youghal is closed to rail traffic and has been licenced to Cork County Council for the development and operation of the proposed MY Greenway, which is currently under construction. The Council must be consulted at the appropriate time in the event of the Interconnector project proceeding.

Yours sincerely,

Limerick Junction



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Celtic Interconnector Project - request for Letter of Consent
Date: Monday 15 March 2021 21:50:24
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

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Good evening [REDACTED]

Many thanks to you for your time last week regarding the existing disused Midleton-Youghal railway corridor, Co. Cork.

As discussed, we are currently preparing the relevant plans and particulars for the making of consent applications for the Celtic Interconnector project. I am hoping that you could arrange a letter of consent to the making of the application from Irish Rail (or relevant authority) insofar as it concerns lands in its ownership and/or control. As discussed, the proposed underground cables of the Celtic Interconnector will cross the existing disused rail corridor at three locations. It is planned that all crossings will be by way of horizontal directional drill (HDD), such that there is no direct interface with the existing corridor.

This letter of consent is simply to the making of the application, and does not presume to support the project nor its proposed scope and design. I do appreciate that Irish Rail may well have its own preferred form of words for standard letters of consent; however, to ensure you have some specific details that may be helpful, I have suggested some wording that you may wish to include in the letter:

Dear Sir / Madam,

[Irish Rail] acknowledges that EirGrid plc has the exclusive function to operate and ensure the maintenance of and, if necessary, develop a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient electricity transmission system, and to explore and develop opportunities for interconnection of its system with other systems pursuant to the provisions of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999 and S.I. No 445/2000. Consequently we hereby consent to the application for Approval by Eirgrid plc under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the proposed development of the Celtic Interconnector Project (An Bord Pleanála Project of Common Interest Ref. No. PCI0003) insofar as it relates to lands in the ownership and/or management control of [Irish Rail].

Yours faithfully,

Please note that we are shortly submitting a Draft Application File to the PCI Unit of An Bord Pleanála in accordance with governing legislation, and it would be very helpful to enable us to demonstrate the completeness of this Draft file if you could please arrange for the letter of consent to issue (by email if possible) to me by the end of next week if at all possible. Thank you very much in advance,

Also as discussed, I have requested that various cable details for the crossing locations are provided to you as quickly as possible, in order to ensure review and comment by your signalling engineers. Apologies for any oversight on our part in not getting this information to you before now.

Many thanks again [REDACTED] and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Web: www.eirgrid.com

We're working flexibly at EirGrid Group.

I'm sending this message at a time that suits me.

Please feel comfortable knowing that I don't expect you to read, respond to or action it outside of regular working hours.

EirGrid plc - Transmission System Operator, Ireland.
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Oibrítheoir Eangach Leictreachais na hÉireann.
160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

Registered Office
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

[REDACTED]

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Séanadh:

Tá faisnéis (agus/nó ceangaltáin) a d'fhéadfadh a bheith faoi phribhléid nó faoi rún sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo. Tá an t-ábhar uile beartaithe a bheith d'úsáid an duine aonair nó an aonáin chuig a ndírítear é amháin. Sa chás nach tú an faighteoir beartaithe, bíodh fios agat go bhfuil cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipeáil, dáileadh nó úsáid d'ábhair na teachtaireachta seo. Is iad tuairimí nó barúlacha an údair amháin na tuairimí nó na barúlacha a léirítear sa teachtaireacht seo, agus b'fhéidir nach ionann iad agus tuairimí nó barúlacha EirGrid. Má shíleann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, cuir é seo in iúl don seoltóir láithreach le do thoil. Cé go scanann EirGrid ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin, ní thugann siad ráthaíocht go mbíonn ceachtar acu saor ó víreas ná ní ghlacann siad aon dliteanas as aon damáiste a dhéantar de thoradh víreas.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Disused Midleton-Youghal Railway line and the Celtic Interconnector Project
Date: Monday 15 March 2021 22:10:13
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time last week to discuss the issue of the potential use of the existing disused Midleton-Youghal railway corridor, Co. Cork, as a potential route for the planned DC underground cable of the Celtic Interconnector project.

I have set out the following as my understanding of issues, as of March 2021, and would be extremely grateful if you could review and confirm if I have these correct?

- There are currently no plans to reopen the existing disused railway line. However, there is a general interest in expanding the railway network around Cork, in the context of climate change management.
- While theoretically possible to the use of the corridor for the DC underground cables of the Celtic Interconnector project, this would be subject to agreed conditions/caveats. In particular, if there was a future conflict between any existing cables of the Celtic Interconnector project and a planned railway design (including signalling cables etc.), the interconnector cables would have to be removed and relocated.
- The greenway, currently under construction by Cork County Council on the disused railway corridor has similar agreed caveats, including a lease restricted to 20 years. This lease can be nullified in as little as six months.
- The design and layout of the cables is of significant importance, vis-à-vis their potential to interfere with signalling and other rail infrastructure.
- The corridor is currently a single-line. It is likely that any future re-use would include if possible for a twin-tracked solution; this requires a larger land take, most likely using the available land within the corridor.

Many thanks [REDACTED] if you could confirm that my understanding of the issues above is correct.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Consents and Planning Lead,

Celtic Interconnector Project,



[Redacted]

Web: www.eirgrid.com

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Registered Office

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Séanadh:

Tá faisnéis (agus/nó ceangaltáin) a d'fhéadfadh a bheith faoi phribhléid nó faoi rún sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo. Tá an t-ábhar uile beartaithe a bheith d'úsáid an duine

aonair nó an aonáin chuig a ndírítear é amháin. Sa chás nach tú an faighteoir beartaithe, bíodh fios agat go bhfuil cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipeáil, dáileadh nó úsáid d'ábhair na teachtaireachta seo. Is iad tuairimí nó barúlacha an údair amháin na tuairimí nó na barúlacha a léirítear sa teachtaireacht seo, agus b'fhéidir nach ionann iad agus tuairimí nó barúlacha EirGrid. Má shíleann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, cuir é seo in iúl don seoltóir láithreach le do thoil. Cé go scanann EirGrid ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin, ní thugann siad ráthaíocht go mbíonn ceachtar acu saor ó víreas ná ní ghlacann siad aon dliteanas as aon damáiste a dhéantar de thoradh víreas.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: EirGrid and Celtic Interconnector
Date: Monday 8 March 2021 11:09:04
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

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Good morning [REDACTED],

I am contacting you in respect of the Celtic Interconnector project, which has now been confirmed to extend from Claycastle Beach, Youghal, Co. Cork, to the IDA Ballyadam site, east of Carrigtwohill, and onwards to connect to the National grid at the existing ESB Knockraha substation, near Watergrasshill.

I know you have been previously engaged on the Celtic Interconnector project, insofar as it concerns crossing of the existing disused Midleton-Youghal rail line, which is currently being developed as a greenway by Cork County Council. In this regard, I have been in ongoing contact with Sean O'Callaghan in CCC who confirmed that you were the most appropriate point of contact.

I wonder would it be possible to have a further conversation with you and update you on the project and some relevant issues arising? My contact details are below (mobile contact is best), but if you let me know any times that suit I can set up a call?

Many thanks Andrew if this was possible.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Web: www.eirgrid.com

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The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Oibrítheoir Eangach Leictreachais na hÉireann.
160 Bóthar Shiol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Séanadh:

Tá faisnéis (agus/nó ceangaltáin) a d'fhéadfadh a bheith faoi phribhléid nó faoi rún sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo. Tá an t-ábhar uile beartaithe a bheith d'úsáid an duine aonair nó an aonáin chuig a ndírítear é amháin. Sa chás nach tú an faighteoir beartaithe, bíodh fios agat go bhfuil cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipeáil, dáileadh nó úsáid d'ábhair na teachtaireachta seo. Is iad tuairimí nó barúlacha an údair amháin na tuairimí nó na barúlacha a léirítear sa teachtaireacht seo, agus b'fhéidir nach ionann iad agus tuairimí nó barúlacha EirGrid. Má shíleann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, cuir é seo in iúl don seoltóir láithreach le do thoil. Cé go scanann EirGrid ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin, ní thugann siad ráthaíocht go mbíonn ceachtar acu saor ó víreas ná ní ghlacann siad aon dliteanas as aon damáiste a dhéantar de thoradh víreas.

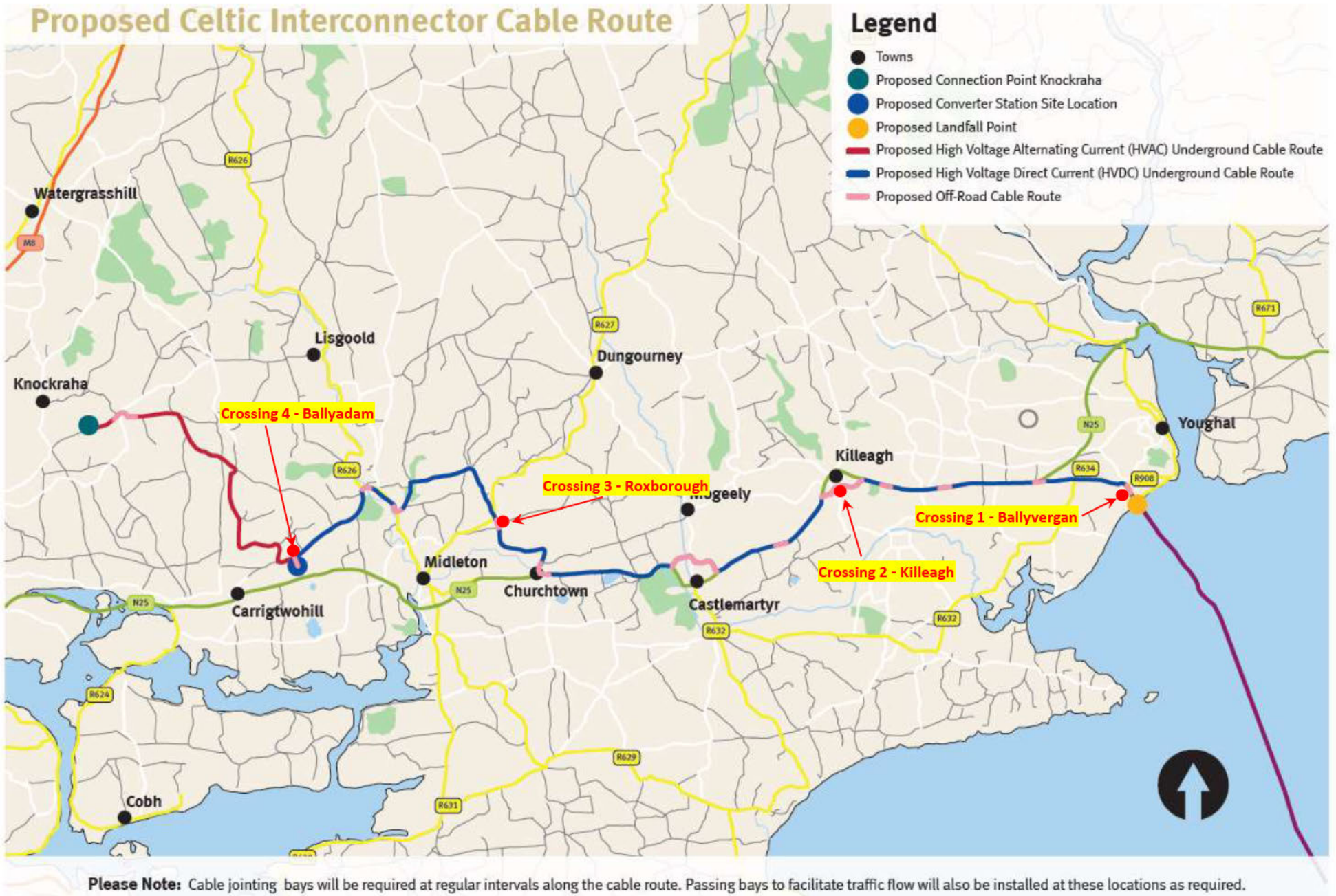


Figure 1 – Celtic Interconnector Cable Route Overview showing Railway crossings.

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] - third party consultation
Date: Monday 14 June 2021 10:58:00
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[REDACTED].g

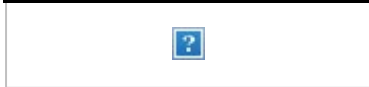
Hello [REDACTED] Please see attached e-mail with redacted copy of e-mail from [REDACTED] to myself that is subject to the FOI request. The e-mail can be supplied as part of the FOI request as long as the items highlighted in red boxes are redacted.

For future reference can any FOI request be made in the first instance to our Freedom of Information/Data Protection Officer, [REDACTED] (contact details below).

Kind regards,

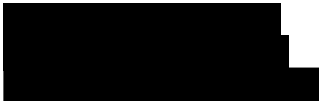
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
STSE Office,
Iarnród Éireann,
Limerick Junction Railway Station,
Limerick Junction,
Co. Tipperary.
E34 E984

[REDACTED].ie : www.irishrail.ie



[REDACTED] icer,

Corporate Communications,
Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail,
Connolly Station,
Amien Street,
Dublin 1.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2021 09:27

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Hi Andrew,

Just as a reminder, the latest date you can respond to us with regards to the third party consultation is the 14/06/2021. I would be grateful if you can respond by that date.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FOI Officer,
Legal Department
EirGrid
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 08 June 2021 11:20

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED]

Ok, thank you [REDACTED]

We will await your response.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

FOI Officer,
Legal Department
EirGrid
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 June 2021 09:49

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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I have sent this enquiry onto our FOI Executive and awaiting a response. I will hopefully be able to respond later this week.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Senior Track & Structures Engineer,
STSE Office,
Iarnród Éireann,
Limerick Junction Railway Station,
Limerick Junction,
Co. Tipperary.
E34 E984

☎: 062 51083 ✉: andrew.wilson@irishrail.ie 🌐: www.irishrail.ie



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 24 May 2021 16:58

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: FOI@Eirgrid.com

Subject: FOI_2021_018 - third party consultation

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Dear [REDACTED]

Please see attached correspondence in relation to a third party consultation with regards to an FOI request received by EirGrid. Please review the attached record and let us know if you are happy to release this information.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
FOI Officer,
Legal Department
EirGrid
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

Registered Office

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Séanadh:

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Iarnrod Eireann Irish Rail, cuideachta ghniomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, claraithe in Eirinn ag Staisiun Ui Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Ur. 119571 Ur. CBL: IE 4812851 O
Iarnrod Eireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

EirGrid plc - Transmission System Operator, Ireland.
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Oibrítheoir Eangach Leictreachais na hÉireann.
160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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