Ground Floor – Unit 3, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road,
Sandyford, Dublin 18, D18V4K6, Ireland Tel: +353-1-567 7655
Email: enviro@mores.ie Web: www.maloneoregan.ie

MALONE O'REGAN ENVIRONMENTAL

MOR Ref: E2238

Applicant: Prt Solar Ltd

RE: Application to An Bord Pleanála for Strategic Infrastructure Development ('SID') consent for a proposed 110kV electrical substation with customer and EirGrid compounds and 110kV underground grid connection on a site of ca. 1.7 hectares at Friarstown, Co, Carlow

Dear Sir or Madam,

Further to a determination by An Bord Pleanála ('ABP') on 6th February 2025, confirming the proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development ('SID') pursuant to Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Prt Solar Ltd intends to apply to ABP for permission for the following development:

- 1 no. 110kV electrical substation with customer and EirGrid compounds; and,
- 110kV underground cable connecting the substation to the existing ESB 220kV Kellistown substation.

The proposed 110kV electrical substation will be located in Friarstown, on a site of crica ('ca.') 1.7 hectares ('ha').

The 110kV underground cabling ('UGC') is proposed from the substation in Friarstown townland to Kellistown 220kV substation in Kellistown East townland through the townlands of Friarstown, Grangeford Old, Grangeford, Moanalow, Glenoge, Rathnashannagh, Inchisland Or Moatalusha, Rathtoe, Kellistown East, Ballycurragh and Kellistown West. The UGC will be ca. 8km in length, primarily along public roads with a small area in private lands.

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) has determined, in accordance with Section 182A of the Act, that notice must be given to Prescribed Bodies relating to the proposal as listed below:

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Carlow County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- An Taisce
- Failte Ireland
- The Heritge council
- An Chomhairle Ealaion
- Uisce Eireann (Irish Water)
- Commissions for Regulation of Utilities

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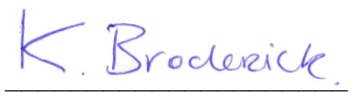
MALONE O'REGAN ENVIRONMENTAL

- EirGrid
- ESB
- Inland Fisheries Ireland

Please see letter below which has been forwarded to all Prescribed Bodies.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.
Yours faithfully,

Yours faithfully,
for Malone O'Regan Environmental



Kathryn Broderick

Ground Floor – Unit 3, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road,
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MALONE O'REGAN ENVIRONMENTAL

30th May 2025

An Chomhairle Ealaíon,
70 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2,
D02 NY52

MOR Ref: E2238

Applicant: Prt Solar Ltd

RE: Application to An Bord Pleanála for Strategic Infrastructure Development ('SID') consent for a proposed 110kV electrical substation with customer and EirGrid compounds and 110kV underground grid connection on a site of ca. 1.7 hectares at Friarstown, Co, Carlow

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the applicant, Prt Solar Ltd, please find enclosed a copy of all planning application documentation for the above-mentioned proposed development. A planning application for this proposed development is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála ('ABP') in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ('the Act'). A Natura Impact Statement (Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) has been prepared in respect of this application.

ABP has advised that for the purposes of section 182(A)(4)(b) of the Act of 2000, as amended, having regard to the provisions of article 210(5) of Regulations 2001, as amended, that An Chomhairle Ealaíon, prescribed under article 213(1), is an appropriate body to be notified by the prospective applicant of the making of an application.

Background

The Proposed Development will be critical infrastructure that will be intrinsically linked to both permitted and planned renewable energy projects, comprising of both solar and battery energy storage developments. These renewable energy projects will not be able to function as standalone developments as they will be reliant on connections to the Proposed Development in order to connect to the national grid.

It is anticipated that, subject to the grant of application, the proposed 110kV substation will be developed in lieu of the previously permitted 38kV substation granted by Carlow County Council (Planning Ref: 2360297), which amended previous permission Reg. Ref: 21/23 and ABP-309987-21). The Proposed Development will connect the renewable energy project to the existing Kellistown 220kV substation. It is envisioned that the Proposed Development will be constructed in conjunction with the Permitted Solar Development.

Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will consist of a 110kV electrical substation and associated 110kV underground grid connection, cabling and associated works required to connect a solar farm (permitted under Carlow County Council Reg. Ref: 23/60297; which amended previous permission Reg. Ref: 21/23 and ABP-309987-21) to the existing Kellistown 220kV substation.

The proposed 110kV electrical substation in Friarstown, on a site of circa ('ca.') 1.7 hectares ('ha') will consist of:

a. 1 no. electrical substation compound and access road, palisade fencing and gates, measuring 100.75m x 126.75m;

b. 1 no. electrical substation / IPP control building measuring 10.74m x 20.15m and 6.920m in height;

c. 1 no. EirGrid switch room building measuring 18m x 25m and 8.55m in height;

d. 6 no. lightning protection monopoles measuring up to 18m in height;

e. Associated electrical apparatus, plant and equipment; overhead and underground electrical and communications cabling and ancillary works;

f. Upgrading of existing access road;

g. Temporary site construction compound; and,

h. All associated ancillary works above and below ground, including landscaping.

The 110kV underground cabling is proposed from the substation in Friarstown townland to Kellistown 220kV substation in Kellistown East townland through the townlands of Friarstown, Grangeford Old, Grangeford, Moanalow, Glenoge, Rathnashannagh, Inchisland Or Moatalusha, Rathtoe, Kellistown East, Ballycurragh and Kellistown West. It will consist of:

a. Ca. 8km of underground 110kV electrical cables and associated communications cables;

b. 11 no. underground joint bays;

c. 3 no. Horizontal Directional Drilling ('HDD') crossings;

d. Associated works including road carriageway passing places; and,

e. All associated ancillary works above and below ground.

Appropriate Assessment

A Natura Impact Statement ('NIS') has been prepared by Malone O'Regan Environmental and submitted with this planning application. The NIS is presented as a separate document and submitted to inform a Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment to be carried out by the Planning Authority (Council Directive 92/43/EC & Council Directive 2009/147/EC). The NIS addresses the entirety of the project, including the proposed substation and grid connection and the permitted solar farm, battery storage and associated works (Planning Ref: 2360297). The NIS concludes that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European (Natura 2000) sites.

Planning Application Documentation

An Bord Pleanála has instructed the Applicant to notify An Chomhairle Ealaíon, as a prescribed body, of the lodgement of the planning application and to furnish you with a copy of the planning application documentation. A copy is attached herewith.

All planning applications and associated documentation are also available to view at the dedicated project website, which includes:

- Completed Application Form for Permission Approval in respect of a SID;
- Planning Application Notification Letter to Carlow County Council;
- Cover Letter to ABP;
- Site notice;

- Newspaper notice;
- Letter from the Applicant confirming Statutory Undertaker status authorised to carry out works for the supply of electricity under the public road;
- Letter of consent from the landowner;
- Sample Notification Letter sent to the prescribed bodies;
- Planning Application Drawings (see Schedules of Drawings attached to Planning Application Form);
- Natura Impact Statement;
- Environmental Report Vol.1;
- Environmental Report – Appendices Vol.2;
- Decommissioning Plan;
- Preliminary Construction Environmental Management Plan; and,
- Construction Traffic Management Plan.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: www.moanalow110substation.ie.

You are advised that ABP may, in respect of an application for permission, decide to -

(a) (i) approve the proposed development; or

(ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its approval and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified; or

(iii) approve in part only, the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind);

and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or

(b) refuse to approve the proposed development.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie during a period of seven weeks relating to –

(i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;

(ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and,

(iii) the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations from An Chomhairle Ealaíon must be received by ABP no later than **5.30 p.m. on the 28th July 2025.**

Attached to this letter of notification is a copy of the Direction from ABP that the proposed development constitutes a strategic infrastructure development.

It is trusted that the documentation provided is in order and is sufficient for your consideration of this Proposed Development. Should you have any queries in relation to any of the information enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

for Malone O'Regan Environmental

K. Broderick.

Kathryn Broderick

An Bord Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-018827-25
ABP-319470-24

The submissions on file and the inspector's report were considered at a Board Meeting held on the 05/02/2025.

1.1. The Board decided having regard to the size, scale and location of the proposed development comprising the development, it is recommended that the prospective applicant, Prt Solar Ltd., be informed that the proposed development consisting of a 110kV substation and 110kV underground cable connecting the substation to existing ESB 220kV Kellistown substation, at Grangeford, Co. Carlow, as set out in the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanala on 5th April, 2024, falls within the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and that a planning application should be made directly to the Board.

The applicant shall be informed that the application documentation should be forwarded to the following the prescribed bodies which are considered relevant in this instance for the purposes of Section 182A(4)(b) of the Act:

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Carlow County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- An Taisce
- Fáilte Ireland
- The Heritage Council
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Uisce Éireann (Irish Water)
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- EirGrid
- ESB

ABP-319470-24 Board Direction Page 1 of 2

- Inland Fisheries Ireland

Further notifications should also be made, where deemed appropriate.

Board Member Peter Mullan **Date:** 05/02/2025

Peter Mullan