

PLANNING

Oriel will apply for consent for the updated project under the Marine Planning and Development Management legislation when enacted. This new legislation will provide a comprehensive and holistic approach to the management of development and activities in the marine space and aligns the consent process with onshore planning and development. For Oriel, it replaces the consent application for the offshore elements of the project under the Foreshore Acts and a separate Strategic Infrastructure Development consent for the onshore works.

As a project that had previously applied for a lease under the Foreshore Acts, Oriel was designated as a 'Relevant Project' by the Government on the 19 May 2020. This allows Oriel to apply for a Planning Interest for the project and to subsequently make a planning application.

The planning application will include all works required to construct, maintain, operate and ultimately decommission the project, both the onshore and offshore elements.

The process falls under a number of EU Directives, including the EIA Directive, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and is subject to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention amongst others.

Oriel intends to make an application under this new process in mid 2021. This application will take into account the feedback from this and other parts of the public consultation process. The application will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The application will be made to An Bord Pleanála and will include a public consultation phase with the opportunity for all interested parties to make an observation on the project directly to the Board. The period for observations will be determined by the Board but will be no less than six weeks. Full details of the process are available on An Bord Pleanála's website, www.pleanala.ie.

Details of this application will also be notified in the local and national press and through the Oriel website and contacts list. If you would like to be included in the distribution list for updates on the project please leave your email address with one of the project team or sign up on the Oriel website, www.orielwindfarm.ie