

EirGrid Network Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023

Consultation Response Paper

April 2024



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1 Introduction

EirGrid's Draft Network Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023 contains a review of EirGrid's stakeholder engagement activities that took place during 2023.

The report details our bespoke approach to stakeholder engagement for each of the core areas of EirGrid. It also includes summaries of the activities for each area that offered opportunities for engagement. And finally, the report features the measures we use to determine the success of each engagement.

On the 15 March 2024, EirGrid published its Draft Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023, and it became available for viewing and consultation on the EirGrid website. Stakeholders were then invited to submit their consultation responses via the EirGrid Consultation Portal. The portal was open until the 17 April 2024, when the consultation period ended. This document, the Consultation Response Paper, details EirGrid's response to consultation responses received via the consultation process.

Thank you to those who responded to this consultation. Where relevant and appropriate to do so, feedback from this consultation has been incorporated into our Final Stakeholder Engagement Report for 2023. Further feedback that was not incorporated in our Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023 has been noted and will be considered for our future reports, where appropriate, as we continue to enhance our engagement.

Finally, some comments submitted related to matters of infrastructure and other areas that are outside the scope of the consultation. As a result, these comments have not been addressed in this response document.

We'd like to reiterate that the purpose of this document is to lookback on EirGrid's stakeholder engagement within 2023 and that it is not a technical document.

The objective of this document is set out in [Annex 14 of CRU/20/154](#):

“To actively promote cultures within the TSO and DSO that put stakeholders at the centre of what they do, through the design and implementation of high quality, comprehensive and effective channels for stakeholders to understand, respond to and help shape what the TSO and DSO do on behalf of customers, market participants and the wider community.”

It is noted that some respondents have requested the expansion of this report to include technical detail for example, on the alleviation of grid infrastructure constraints, as well as details on governance and decision-making processes. The purpose of the NSEE Stakeholder Engagement documentation, is set out above, and therefore, we have not responded to any comments that fall out of scope of this document.

All stakeholder feedback, however, has been channelled to the relevant areas of the business for consideration.

Formal feedback via the EirGrid consultation portal was received from the following organisations:

- **Bord Gáis Energy (BGE)**
- **EDF Renewables (EDFR)**

EirGrid thanks the contributors for their comments and respected feedback.

2 Feedback and EirGrid Responses

As part of the consultation process in relation to the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023, EirGrid posed the following questions for stakeholders to consider:

- 1) Do you believe that this Draft 2023 Network Stakeholder Engagement Report sufficiently covers all of EirGrid's activities during 2023?
- 2) Would you like to see any further information covered in EirGrid's future Network Stakeholder Engagement Reports?
- 3) Do you have a view on the direction that you would like to see EirGrid's Stakeholder Engagement going in in future years?

All of the submissions received welcomed the opportunity to give feedback on the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023 and the overall collaborative nature of the process.

2.1 Overall Commentary from Contributors

EirGrid welcomes the support from stakeholders in our continued engagement with a wide range of groups and organisations. Consultation on stakeholder engagement forms a vital part of the process.

Extracts from consultation responses received which are positive in nature are set out below:

Bord Gáis Energy welcomed the opportunity to respond to the Consultation on EirGrid's 2023 Network Stakeholder Engagement Report noting: "The 2023 Report does demonstrate significant levels of engagement activities and learnings with stakeholders including customer clinics, public roadshows, and online engagement."

EDF Renewables also commented: "...we would like to thank EirGrid for the opportunity to engage on this matter and look forward to continuing our work with you in future."

Continuing: "We appreciate EirGrid's efforts to deliver an effective stakeholder engagement process."

"We also welcome that EirGrid has been actively engaging with the Government and regulatory authorities on key policies and strategic issues and will be collaborating with, and co-hosting, public consultations with DECC as part of the move to plan-led approach for Phase 2 of offshore wind development. We believe these commitments are vital to ensure the long-term success of the ORE plan-led regime."

We'd like to thank both Bord Gáis Energy and EDF Renewables for taking the time to respond to our Consultation on EirGrid's 2023 Draft Network Stakeholder Engagement Report.

2.2 Themes and Areas of Feedback

Consultation responses received relating to the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023, commented on a range of areas including:

- **Offshore and onshore**
- **Stakeholder engagement**
- **Our partnership with ESB**
- **Previous feedback from NSEE stakeholder engagement panel close-out reports**
- **Markets and pricing**

Consultee comments are provided below, followed by EirGrid's response.

2.2.1 Offshore and onshore

EDFR Consultee comment:

“From an offshore perspective, we welcome, and agree with, the inclusion of offshore renewable energy (ORE) in the list of primary focus areas for 2024. EirGrid will play a pivotal role in the implementation of both on and offshore wind, including an essential part in spatial planning such as Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) site identification.”

“Our key message is that significant and meaningful engagement between EirGrid, DECC and the ORE industry is urgently required via the following:

- Open, collaborative dialogue with DECC on ORE policy development
- Consistency and alignment with DECC on policy and spatial planning
- Early and meaningful engagement with the ORE industry on plans and policy”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid concurs on the need for consistent and aligned communications and we will continue to work with all of our stakeholders to help achieve this outcome.

EirGrid continues to support and collaborate with relevant stakeholders including the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on ORE Policy and spatial planning. It is expected that DECC will bring a draft of the Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for the South Coast to public consultation shortly. This process will require sign off from The Houses of the Oireachtas, and once this is finalised, EirGrid’s full consultation and engagement process will mobilise with all stakeholders.

EDFR Consultee comment:

“We would like to see stronger, more detailed commitments to work with renewable energy stakeholders (including the Irish Government and the renewables industry) to ensure the optimum grid solutions are chosen for the renewables pipeline. This should also include, from an offshore perspective, each ORE development phase.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid is directly supporting DECC as it develops the Offshore Transmission Strategy that will follow from its July 2023 Policy Statement on Interconnection. In this work, we are helping DECC to design an aligned approach to the development of offshore areas with good potential for offshore windfarm development. This envisages a process whereby government (national and regional) would work closely with key stakeholders, including EirGrid, developers and energy end-users to enable the effective utilisation of resources.

In respect of electricity interconnection to other countries, the work carried out for Tomorrow’s Energy Scenarios (TES) and other recent work (for example the studies carried out in support of DECC’s Policy Statement, and ENTSO-E’s Offshore Network Development Plan), demonstrate that substantial further interconnection is likely to be required to meet Ireland’s longer-term goals for offshore wind development (20GW offshore wind in 2040, and 37GW in 2050).

Given the levels of Ireland’s ambition to develop offshore resources, we believe that hybrid (or multi-purpose) interconnection is likely to be important. With ongoing point-to-point interconnection projects (e.g. Greenlink, Celtic, MaresConnect), and the radial connection of up to 5GW of offshore wind through the Phase 1 and Phase 2 offshore wind developments, there will be fewer opportunities to land further

windfarm developments and interconnectors in Ireland, without substantial onshore transmission development. Hybrid or multi-purpose interconnectors could enable the more effective deployment of further offshore resources, particularly if these are part of a coordinated plan-led development of offshore resources.

EirGrid's work in respect of hybrid (or multi-purpose) interconnection includes substantial input to ENTSO-E's Offshore network Development Plan (ONDP) [Offshore Network Development Plans \(entsoe.eu\)](https://entsoe.eu) that begins to look at the pan-European offshore transmission network requirements to deliver national goals for offshore resource development. In the case of Ireland, the ONDP illustrates that substantial build out of hybrid interconnection would help deliver Ireland's goals for 2040 and 2050.

Following the Ostend Declaration of April 2023, we are also working directly with the TSOs that make up the Ostend group of countries to develop policy to enable the implementation of hybrid and multi-purpose projects, and to develop network options for a North Seas Grid Map (including the Irish & Celtic Seas). Additionally, alongside the recent governmental agreements between Ireland and GB, and Ireland and France, EirGrid has initiated bilateral work with the respective TSOs to better understand the feasibility of hybrid interconnection to these jurisdictions.

Building on TES, we have also started work to assess longer term (post 2040) transmission requirements (offshore and onshore) to deliver large-scale offshore wind alongside high electrification of energy use in Ireland. This work will include widescale stakeholder engagement, for example, engagement around different network architectures that would support future requirements.

This is a fast developing and challenging area of transmission development, and we are working with government, and other TSOs, to identify offshore transmission options including hybrid and multi-purpose interconnection that will be effective in supporting the further deployment of offshore renewable energy. In working out the best way forward, we are very open to discussion with offshore renewable energy and interconnection developers.

EDFR Consultee comment:

"EirGrid will play a central role in the implementation of offshore wind, and we note that it will provide the offshore transmission infrastructure for the first stage of Phase 2 (ORESS 2.1 - a 900 MW development off the southeast coast of Ireland). The details of EirGrid's scope in later stages of Phase 2, such as potential additional development off the east coast, and the Future Framework are still to be determined."

EirGrid Response:

EirGrid continues to work with the relevant stakeholders to ensure alignment and that the best approach is followed.

EDFR Consultee comment:

"In terms of innovation and research, we suggest that industry and regulatory bodies in other jurisdictions, with more mature ORE markets, are drawn upon to inform the offshore research topics."

EirGrid Response:

EirGrid has engaged extensively with other TSOs in 2023. These include Tennet in the Netherlands, Elia in Belgium, Statnett in Norway, Denmark's Energinet and of course, RTE France. We have also engaged with our Spanish counterparts in a number of workshops.

In March 2023, EirGrid representatives participated in extensive workshops with the four German TSOs facilitated by the Irish Embassy and the German Ministry. The focus of this engagement was on integrating high levels of renewables, offshore wind, and social acceptance. This was part of the delivery of a commitment in the Ireland-Germany Joint Plan of Action.

2.2.2 Stakeholder engagement

EDFR Consultee comment:

“We believe that a step-change in EirGrid’s overarching strategy is critically needed, if Ireland is to successfully deliver on its climate and RES-E targets. The focus of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan should therefore be on whether EirGrid are engaging with stakeholders, including the public, to a sufficient level, so that they can understand how and why the grid needs to be expanded. A business-as-usual approach is no longer appropriate, in the present context.”

“EDFR would like to see a clear strategy for the development of EirGrid’s 2024 Stakeholder Engagement planning. Overarching strategy is now needed, if Ireland is to successfully deliver on its climate and RES-E targets.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid agrees that impactful stakeholder engagement is critical for enabling continued development of the grid as well as reaching government renewable energy and decarbonisation targets.

Whilst there are often regulatory or other factors involved in decision-making, we are open to, and want to actively encourage, collaboration with our stakeholders to develop solutions and new approaches together.

In recent years, EirGrid has transformed and evolved our public and stakeholder engagement for grid development projects, using a six-step process. Engagement with our customers, the wider energy industry and statutory and other stakeholders is embedded, and indeed key to the project development process. This engagement approach is informed by our overall strategy, which is detailed in our document, [A Public Engagement Strategy for a Cleaner Energy Future](#).

This document, published in 2021, was the culmination of a rigorous and comprehensive approach to find ways to improve public engagement. A detailed process of investigation and recommendation was undertaken, outlining goals, assessing practices, gathering learnings and defining a path to new standards. This process was informed by a comprehensive analysis of independent reviews on this topic, workshops held with internal and external stakeholders, local and international case studies and best practice reviews. In particular, we examined the detail of recent engagements with landowners, community and industry.

Three key goals were identified with a number of enabling actions to support each goal.

- Social Acceptance - Work towards solutions that have public and landowner support.
- Capacity - Increase our public engagement capacity and invest in our people and tools.
- Partnerships - Renew and revitalise our existing alliances - and develop new ones.

Over the last number of years, we have developed the enabling activities (as set out in the strategy document) to support each of these goals and provide below some examples as evidenced in project consultations and engagements.

The above strategy dovetails our Engagement Spectrum which is also a tool we commonly use to categorise the different approaches to engagement.

In 2023, we have continued to build out our engagement with communities via our Energy Citizen Roadshows, Community Forums and information days through our dedicated Community and Agricultural

Liaison Officers. We also piloted a digital data capture method with stakeholders through the use of online feedback opportunities for engagements. Following feedback from CRU, we updated our Community Benefit policy which saw the fund triple in value, incorporating new funding streams for biodiversity and sustainability and community. We have partnership initiatives with Young Social Innovators, and outreach activities such as energy workshops with TY year students in our Powering Up Dublin study area.

A further partnership, which we are now in the third year of is with MaREI - the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine at University College Cork.

This project focuses on providing an impartial analysis of EirGrid's evolving public engagement processes throughout the consultation and engagement process lifecycle to progress both engagement processes and outcomes. It involves multiple aspects of our extensive engagement approach including analysis of communities' holistic return from the EirGrid benefit funding programme and approach, analysis of how this approach can build and enhance communities lead role as change agents at local level and investigation of innovative deliberative democracy instruments and processes with specific attention to aspects involved in promoting well-informed, equal and inclusive interactions that enhance energy citizenship.

It is also designed to analyse actual impact from our engagement activities and contribute to the development of metrics that will drive the development of our stakeholder engagement approach, optimising the outcomes and impact derived from meeting our measures of success.

For more information, see: [Steps for Public Engagement with Energy Transitions in an era of Climate Crisis - MaREI](#)

And for more information on our stakeholder engagement strategy for 2024, please see [our 2024 Network Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#).

EDFR Consultee comment:

"It would be very useful if EirGrid's plans for 2024 Stakeholder Engagement could acknowledge the issues that we raise as input for further consideration, even if particular actions in the response are still under consideration. In our view, a robust and well-developed grid will be necessary for Ireland to deliver on the on and offshore renewables pipeline critical to achieving our climate goals."

EirGrid response:

EirGrid acknowledges the importance of closing the feedback loop and creating transparency around how feedback is incorporated into our engagement strategy and processes.

Once received, all consultee submissions are shared with the relevant Heads of Function within EirGrid for review and feedback.

Building on this, in 2024, we added a 'Stakeholder Feedback' section to each part of the [2024 Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#) that details the comments received from the 2024 Stakeholder Engagement Plan Consultation and what we are doing in response.

EirGrid seeks regular feedback on our stakeholder engagement processes in order to continuously improve our processes while endeavouring to meet the diverse needs of our stakeholders.

EDFR Consultee comment:

"We have been disappointed in EirGrid's lack of involvement during DECC-led industry specific workshops in 2023. As such, the commitment in this draft plan to collaborate / co-host events with DECC going forward is very encouraging."

EirGrid response:

EirGrid welcomes the acknowledgement that these workshops are DECC-led. We will continue to proactively seek opportunities to feed our perspective and thought leadership into policy development across Government.

EDFR Consultee comment:

“Open, collaborative dialogue with various bodies, including EirGrid, DECC and industry is essential to achieving Ireland’s onshore and ORE targets.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid concurs on the need for a consistent and aligned consultation. We will continue to work with all of our stakeholders to help achieve this outcome.

EDFR Consultee comment:

“The Report and draft 2024 Plan, at present, do not appear to acknowledge the challenges facing the development of grid and renewables. We believe that a different approach and process is needed for EirGrid to achieve effective stakeholder engagement, which will enable critical grid infrastructure development and in turn, support the development of the renewables pipeline in Ireland.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid has undertaken an extensive amount of work to develop our stakeholder engagement strategy in recent years. This work spans across all three core areas of our engagement including statutory, society and engagement.

As we continuously work to improve our engagement processes, we have regularly sought feedback through multiple mechanisms.

As part of our more extensive and structured plans for EirGrid Customer Vision, it is worth noting the following:

- The initiation of the EirGrid Customer Vision (ECV) in 2023 was recognition of the need to expand on the annual survey and explore key areas of concern for our customers. This was partly based on previous feedback, in that customers had expressed that there was lack of transparency and a communication disconnect with respect to actions taken on foot of the survey.
- As a result, EirGrid completed over 20 hours of subsequent interviews focusing on Customer Experience and the topics raised in the 2022 survey. In terms of metrics, there was a scoring system, and the scores were shared with the participants as part of follow-up customer sessions (7 sessions in total). The score was 6.0/10 in 2023.
- EirGrid recognises that the organisation has an evolving customer and stakeholder base which adds complexity to measuring customer sentiment. As such, there is a need for a tailored approach to how we engage with customers and capture their customer experience. EirGrid is approaching this with a two-pronged strategy for 2024, firstly a general survey for all customers, and a second more in-depth engagement with a selection of highly engaged customers which will mirror the work done in 2023 as part of the ECV. Like 2023, a scoring system will be used to measure success, and results shared with customers.
- The outputs of these initiatives will be utilised under the umbrella of the ECV to initiate change and embed new ways of working. The ECV will also be the mechanism for how these changes will be communicated with all stakeholders. There has been recognition from the industry with respect to the success of the ECV 2023, and EirGrid will look to continue and expand this work in 2024.

- This process will be cyclical, the scoring system of our augmented surveys will also be transparent and used as the continued benchmark for success.

In recent years, EirGrid has also transformed and evolved our public and stakeholder engagement for grid development projects, using a six-step process. Engagement with our customers, the wider energy industry and statutory and other stakeholders can take place at every step.

The Engagement Spectrum is also a tool we commonly use to categorise the different approaches to engagement.

In 2023, we have continued to build out our engagement with communities via our Energy Citizen Roadshows, Community Forums and information days through our dedicated Community and Agricultural Liaison Officers. We also piloted a digital data capture method with stakeholders through the use of online feedback opportunities for engagements.

In addition to this work, we are now in the third year of our partnership with MaREI - the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine at University College Cork.

This project focuses on providing an impartial analysis of EirGrid's evolving public engagement processes throughout the consultation and engagement process lifecycle to progress both engagement processes and outcomes. It involves multiple aspects of our extensive engagement approach including analysis of communities' holistic return from the EirGrid benefit funding programme and approach, analysis of how this approach can build and enhance communities lead role as change agents at local level and investigation of innovative deliberative democracy instruments and processes with specific attention to aspects involved in promoting well-informed, equal and inclusive interactions that enhance energy citizenship.

It is also designed to analyse actual impact from our engagement activities and contribute to the development of metrics that will drive the development of our stakeholder engagement approach, optimising the outcomes and impact derived from meeting our measures of success.

For more information, see: [Steps for Public Engagement with Energy Transitions in an era of Climate Crisis - MaREI](#)

These relatively new strategies will take time to embed and evolve so that we can continue to engage with all of our stakeholders effectively. In the meantime, EirGrid will maintain open channels for regular feedback while incorporating improvements into our approach.

For more information on our stakeholder engagement strategy for 2024, please see [our 2024 Network Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#).

EDFR Consultee comment:

“We recommend that EirGrid continues to work closely with relevant agencies such as DECC and CRU, and with industry, to coordinate and deliver the critical infrastructure necessary to meet Ireland’s 2030, and beyond, renewable energy ambition. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further with EirGrid.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid concurs on the need for consistent and aligned communications and we will continue to work with all of our stakeholders to help achieve this outcome.

EirGrid takes every opportunity to proactively engage with all stakeholders and has created a variety of mechanisms for the effective procurement and distribution of feedback. We are always looking for ways to improve and by incorporating stakeholder feedback into our strategy and planning, we are able to continually advance our processes for the benefit of all.

In response to the above, we would also like to draw your attention to the following documents:

[Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1](#) - which outlines our plans to develop and expand the grid to reach the 2030 government renewable energy targets.

[Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios](#) - this comprehensive document considers how electricity demand and generation might evolve from 2035 to 2050. The report explains what this could mean for electricity demand, generation, storage and interconnection supported by different technologies. An updated version of this document will be published later this year.

In terms of industry engagement, we would encourage EDFR to contact info@eirgrid.com and an Account Manager will be assigned to assist further.

EDFR Consultee comment:

“There may be ways to compress the existing multi-step Grid Development Process down to several overlapping stages operating in parallel. This would enable the faster delivery of projects.”

EirGrid response:

Stakeholder engagement is critical to EirGrid's work and we endeavour to work as efficiently as possible while following core processes to allow for the correct level of engagement to occur. This ensures an understanding of the project, along with a robust policy context for development and delivery of the project, to allow for appropriate levels of public and community support, or at least absence of opposition to a project, and ensuring landowner agreement to deliver the project on the ground.

It is worth noting that EirGrid engages with stakeholders on a project-by-project basis and we tailor our approach depending on what is appropriate for each project.

The 6-step Framework for Grid Development is designed to ensure that the appropriate rigour is applied to the projects in terms of opportunities for stakeholder engagement as they progress through the various Steps of project development, but with the assurance that there is always some flexibility in approach, proportionate to the nature, location and scale of the project. This is achieved by preparing a Consultation and Engagement Strategy for a project, which is constantly honed as the project progresses in the context of evolving information. This is a key tool of the Framework and is developed in parallel with a Project Development Strategy. This means that any strategic approach to project development is hand-in-glove with a strategy for consultation and engagement, rather than such consultation and engagement being a rigid fixture, around which a project must develop.

It is also important to note that the Framework is also a structure to ensure robust governance in terms of the progression of projects, which is an essential requirement.

These tools are focused on expeditious delivery of projects. They do often result in compressing or “bundling” of Steps, particularly for smaller projects, whereby for example early Steps are bundled into a single governance decision-making process. This is particularly the case with projects within or concerning existing grid infrastructure - which makes up a significant proportion of projects under Shaping our Electricity Future, and which are subject to EirGrid's separate decision-making process for Exempted Development (i.e. development which does not require a prior Grant of Permission). In those cases, this approach can achieve a significant time saving.

Even in the later stages of a project, when new routes and substation sites are being confirmed, a Consultation and Engagement Strategy and the parallel Project Development Strategy will always consider opportunities for accelerated progression - depending on the nature, complexity and scale of the project.

At a Statutory level, EirGrid's Planning and Environmental team is in constant engagement with key stakeholders including An Bord Pleanála, Regional Assemblies, Planning Authorities, State Authorities (known as “Prescribed Bodies”) such as Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife

Service, the Environmental Protection Agency. A particular current initiative is to prepare Regional Plans (known as ‘Strategic Framework for Planning and Environment’) for each of the 3 regions in Ireland, and presenting a regional picture of planned grid development, and EirGrid’s approach to planning, design, consenting and delivery of same. These regional plans derive from a National Implementation Plan, also prepared by the Planning and Environmental team, which is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This allows these stakeholders to understand the strategic context of grid development, and to ensure appropriate supportive policies for same are included in National, Regional and County Plans. This is a key tool for expeditious activity in the consenting phase of a project.

2.2.3 Our partnership with ESB

BGE Consultee comment:

“We ask that the 2023 Report add informative detail for stakeholders on the outcomes and policies emergent from the TSO/ DSO cooperating partnership which are not available in the high-level Operating Framework. There is a growing need of this clarity for stakeholders on the detailed actions and policies of the TSO/ DSO partnership in the areas of addressing grid constraints, securing system services, and how the offshore and onshore systems will interoperate.”

EirGrid response:

Collaboration between the Transmission System Operator (TSO) and Distribution System Operator (DSO) in Ireland is essential for a successful energy transition and long-term resilience of electricity supply. EirGrid, in its role as TSO, and ESB Networks, in its role as DSO, established a Joint System Operator Programme and published our first DSO/TSO Programme Plan in 2021.

In 2023, EirGrid and ESB Networks jointly published our 2024-2028 multi-year plan (see [here](#)) which details the key tasks and milestones that we will be working towards between 2024 and 2028 under the following pillars: reducing dispatch down, secure future power system, facilitating new technology and whole of system solutions.

The proposals outlined in this document include a detailed three-year plan for 2024-2026 and a high-level two-year plan for 2027 and 2028. This work covers the TSO-DSO collaboration required across relevant areas such as, for example, the ESB Networks work on the National Networks, Local Connections programme as well as EirGrid’s Shaping Our Electricity Future programme.

EirGrid has also developed a [new landing page](#) for the EirGrid website which covers the TSO/DSO Joint System Operator Programme, what it is, the background, objectives and any related documents.

EirGrid and ESB Networks as DSO are planning to jointly host webinars in May/June 2024. These will cover further detail on our joint engagement and drivers for change, along with a walk through of the vision and principals of the future Operating Model. Registration details will issue in due course via the usual email channels.

EDFR Consultee comment:

“We recognise the importance of the partnership and collaboration that exists between EirGrid and ESN. We would welcome more opportunities for Industry to engage with both parties on key areas such as connection delivery. These areas are critical to the delivery of renewable projects, and we view engagement with both parties as essential.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid endeavours to continue our approach of proactive engagement with key industry stakeholders on areas such as the offer process and connection delivery. We currently have monthly/quarterly meetings with a number of customers and renewable representative bodies in this regard and are working on expanding this in 2024.

2.2.4 Recommendations from previous NSEE Panel Close-Out Reports

BGE Consultee comment:

“There are a few recommendations from the earlier 2021 Close-Out Report that remain to be fully addressed, including:

- The build out of measures of success beyond capturing activity to instead quantifying the success of the stakeholder engagement to demonstrate benefit and value delivery to the consumer. These could for example be showing savings against projected spend in Asset Management or percentage improvements on average speed of connections made.
- Demonstrate that the metrics are enduring to allow trend reporting of improvements on cost or service for the consumer rather than just activity with stakeholders by EirGrid.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid acknowledges the comment from BGE with regards to our measures of success and we continue to capture as much relevant data as possible.

2.2.5 Markets and pricing

BGE Consultee comment:

“We believe that EirGrid as the Market Operator (MO) needs to keep a forward view at what is going on in Europe and GB and ensure the SEM (and its participants) are positioned correctly as to how our market needs to evolve with these changes (e.g., REMA in GB, and reintegration of SEM with GB). This would in our view be best delivered through formal collaborative stakeholder fora whose scope and frequency are mandated in the appropriate market code (e.g., Trading and Settlement Code). We believe that a similar collaborative stakeholder forum is needed to cover updates on the delivery of interconnectors in the SEM and the impacts they will have on the grid and markets. Further collaborative fora should be established to look at grid development and planning for the onshore grid, and then separately look at offshore grid development and the expected impacts the Offshore Grid Programme schedule will bring.”

EirGrid response:

EirGrid is currently providing frequent updates to industry around how we are implementing the various SEMC decisions and EU Regulations with respect to market changes. The SEM Committee is ultimately responsible with making decisions on how the market design in the SEM needs to evolve. EirGrid is happy to support the SEMC in relation to how industry is best kept informed as part of this work.

BGE Consultee comment:

“We believe that the structure of future Stakeholder Reports needs to adapt to reflect the role of EirGrid across not just Market Operations, Interconnectors, Onshore Grid Development, but now also the Offshore Grid Programme.

EirGrid response:

EirGrid welcomes this feedback from BGE.

We will continue to evolve our approach to Stakeholder Engagement Reporting to include engagements around any TSO functions in Market Operations, Interconnectors, Onshore Grid Development and the Offshore Grid Programme.

3 Conclusion

EirGrid thanks all those who responded to this consultation, which was specifically to receive feedback on our stakeholder engagement completed in 2023 as captured in the Draft Network Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023.

Following this consultation, the [Final 2023 NSEE Stakeholder Engagement Report](#) has now been published and reflects the feedback received via this consultation process as well as a summary of EirGrid's responses. You can view this summary at the end of the report, along with a summary sheet of EirGrid's stakeholder engagement activity for 2023.