



Planning Consultants

Powering Up Dublin Consultation,
EirGrid plc,
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin,
D04 FW28.

RMLA Limited,
Unit 3B,
Santry Avenue Industrial Estate,
Santry Avenue,
Santry,
Dublin 9,
D09 PH04

Email: admin@rmla.ie

Date: 22nd May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Powering Up Dublin: Replacement Underground Cable Programme 2023

This submission has been prepared by RMLA on behalf of An Post, GPO, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1 in response to the EirGrid Powering Up Dublin Consultation. An Post welcomes the continued opportunity to engage with EirGrid on this project which promotes sustainable energy use and connectivity within Dublin city and its surrounding areas.

An Post acknowledges the growing and changing needs for sustainable energy and welcomes the improvement of Dublin's electricity grid. We would request that EirGrid consider this submission in the preparation of the replacement underground cable programme and accommodate future engagements with An Post. An Post, as a semi state body, is committed to the objectives of Ireland's Climate Action Plan.

Emerging Best Performing Route Options

Powering Up Dublin seeks to modernise Dublin's electricity infrastructure by installing over 50km of underground cables across the city, linking the following substations: North Wall and Poolbeg, Finglas and North Wall, Carrickmines and Poolbeg, and Inchicore and Poolbeg. This aims to provide a more reliable and sustainable supply of electricity to support Dublin's future needs, while also contributing to the local economy and communities which host the project's infrastructure.

EirGrid has identified twelve potential underground routes which run mainly along the road network connecting the North Wall, Poolbeg, Finglas, Inchicore and Carrickmines substations. This public consultation is taking place from Tuesday 28th March to Tuesday 23rd May and will provide feedback which will be considered alongside further site investigations in the selection of the final routes. An Post is supportive of this consultation period and its inclusion in the Business Forum and all communication to date with EirGrid. An Post looks forward to the opportunity for further engagement on this proposal with EirGrid and the relevant Local Authorities.

An Post Operational Requirements

An Post plays a central role in Irish life and society, providing an essential public service delivering mail and parcels to more than 2.2 million business and residential addresses six days a week. As such, the efficient operation of An Post's postal facilities, including both e-Commerce (Mails & Parcels) and Customer (Retail), is central to the successful provision of postal services for businesses and personal customers. It is imperative that, in order to protect the smooth operation of the existing postal service

in Dublin, unrestricted 24-hour access for deliveries/collections are protected at all collection points including post boxes, in addition to customer access.

Given the nature of An Post's role, providing an essential public service delivering mail and parcels, they require the use of a significant number of small and large vehicles on a daily basis. Unrestricted vehicular access, is, therefore, of critical importance to the operation of the service they provide and any limitations in this regard can have serious knock-on impacts on the ability of An Post to meet the postal needs of the public and service their legal agreements with the State. Given Dublin is the main operational hub for An Post, the construction of the Powering Up Dublin routes have the potential to impact An Post's services at a national and international level. In this regard, it is imperative that An Post's services can continue undisrupted and without any conflict that may arise as a result of the underground cable construction. Early engagement in relation to proposed route and points is essential to ensure An Post and EirGrid can collaborate effectively to ensure smooth operations for both entities.

Request for Consultation

An Post welcomes the public consultation phase for feedback on the potential route options and expresses their interest in direct engagement with EirGrid as part of the preparation and finalisation of the Powering Up Dublin project. An Post also welcomes and supports the undertaking of improvements to sustainability and energy connectivity across the capital. However, it is requested that EirGrid carefully considers the operational requirements of An Post at all stages of the planning and development process and engages directly to ensure lack/minimised disruption of postal operations.

There are a number of An Post postal facilities located on or adjacent to the majority of the Route Options as presented at this stage of the project. This includes the An Post sites of Finglas, Ravensdale Road and Phibsborough along the Finglas to North Wall routes; Ballymount, Whiteheather, Crumlin and Rathmines along the Inchicore to Poolbeg routes and Blackrock and Foxrock along the Carrickmines to Poolbeg route, as well as numerous retail offices, post-boxes and collection points along each proposed route. Such proximity to the underground cable constructions causes concern for potential large and continued disruption to An Post's operational requirements.

It is requested that EirGrid considers HGV movements and all other operational requirements associated with the postal service throughout both the construction and operational phase of any works. It is further requested that full collaboration and on-going consultations are held as route options progress and prior to and during the entire length of the project.

Conclusion

We trust that the matters outlined above will be taken into consideration as part of the preparation and finalisation of the Powering Up Dublin: Replacement Underground Cable Programme. We are available for discussion on any of the matters referred to above and request direct engagement with EirGrid as part of the finalisation of this strategy and ongoing through both the pre-implementation and on-site phase.

We would appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this submission by return.

Yours faithfully,



Heather McMeel

Senior Planner

For and on Behalf of RMLA Limited