

Irish Wind Energy Association,
Sycamore House,
Millennium Park,
Osberstown,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.

Declan Bourke
Housing and Planning Section
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford

Date: 14th Sept, 2012

By email: dev.con.guidelines@environ.ie

Re: Development Contributions - Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Irish Wind Energy Association ("IWEA") is Ireland's leading renewable energy representative body and as such has an active interest in the potential for sustainable energy. IWEA is committed to promoting the use of wind energy in Ireland and beyond as an economically viable and environmentally sound alternative to thermal or nuclear generation and promotes awareness and understanding of wind power as the primary renewable energy resource. IWEA members are involved in more than 85% of the wind farm capacity planning to build from now to 2020.

IWEA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation and commends the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for introducing waivers for sustainable energy infrastructure. IWEA is in agreement that with this measure in place, it will encourage economic activity and promote development in sustainable energy. Sustainable energy represents a first-rate opportunity to secure job creation and long-term inward investment, as well as to position Ireland at the heart of Europe's energy solutions.

Every new wind farm development provides a substantial contribution to the local and national economy through job creation, local authority rates, land rents and increased demand for local support services in construction, operation & maintenance, legal and accounting and project management. More wind on the system will also result in lower and more stable energy prices for consumers while helping us achieve our energy and emissions targets.

Yours sincerely,

**sent by email, bears no signature*

Caitríona Diviney
Chief Operating Officer
Irish Wind Energy Association