

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

Planning Department,
Limerick County Council,
County Hall, Dooradoyle,
County Limerick.

By email to planning@limerickcoco.ie

Date: 11 November 2013

Re: Limerick County Council Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2014-2016

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 on Limerick's Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2014-2016. We welcome the proposed continued exemption from development contributions provided for domestic wind turbines. However IWEA has strong concerns regarding the proposed development contributions that will apply to commercial wind turbines. We are particularly concerned that the level of contribution from the scheme has risen significantly and disproportionately, from **€2,188 per turbine to €11,000 per 1MW or part thereof**. This represents a minimum 403% increase for a 1MW turbine, and **an increase for a 3MW turbine from €2,188 to €33,000 (a 1408% increase)**. In direct contrast, other infrastructure which under the previous contribution scheme had been classed within the same category as commercial wind turbines have only seen an increase of 129% from €2188 to €5000.

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.

In that context we feel the quantum of development contribution proposed for wind energy is wholly excessive and without recognition of the existence of significant benefits from wind energy to the local economy. We **would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further outline this point**. We would also finally propose that wind turbine linked community contributions should be 'ring-fenced' for use directly in the local communities hosting the wind farm.

Yours sincerely,

**Sent by email, without signature.*

Caitríona Diviney
Chief Operating Officer
Irish Wind Energy Association