FOI Unit,
Dept. of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources,
Elm House,
Earlsvale Road,
Cavan,
Co. Cavan.

16/2/2015

Dear Sir / Madam,

On behalf of Co. Monaghan Anti-Pylon Committee, in accordance with Section 7 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I request information with regard to the Independent Expert Panel (IEP) chaired by Mrs Justice Catheine McGuinness and EirGrid plc.

A decision by the IEP regarding the compatibility of studies carried out on the North South Interconnector with Grid West and Grid Link was published on the DCENR website on 1st July 2014. This decision was taken on foot of a submission made by EirGrid to the IEP on 29th May 2014, a meeting with EirGrid on 10th June 2014 and a follow up submission from EirGrid on 19th June 2014.

**In particular we request all the documents / information submitted by EirGrid to the EIP on 29th May and 19th June 2014.**

**In addition we also request the minutes of the meeting between the EIP and EirGrid on 10th June 2014.**

Our preferred form of access is either by post to the above address or electronically to the email address below.
09/03/2015

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2015/18

I refer to your request dated 16/02/2015 which was received by this office on 17/02/2015 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this FOI body. Your request sought:

Information with regard to the Independent Expert Panel (IEP) chaired by Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness and EirGrid plc.

The decision maker handling your request is Mr John Twomey, Strategic Energy Policy Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2 and they can be contacted at 01 6782151. A final decision on your request would normally be sent to you within 4 weeks, where a week is defined as 5 working day excluding the weekend and public holidays. This means that you can expect a decision letter to issue not later than 18/03/2015.

There are some limited situations under the FOI Act which could mean that the period for a final decision may be longer than this 4 week period. If this occurs in the case of your request, you will be advised promptly in writing setting out the reason and the new decision date.

Should our final decision not reach you on time, please feel free to contact the decision maker named above to discuss any problems that may have arisen. If you have not heard from us once the allotted time has expired, you are automatically entitled to appeal for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired. The review is a full and new examination of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff.

In the event that you need to request such a review, you can do so by writing to FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlsvale Rd, Cavan, Co Cavan or alternatively by sending an e-mail to FOI.UNIT@dcenr.gov.ie. You should state that you are seeking this review because an initial decision was not sent to you within the time allowed for a response. In that event, you would normally have 4 weeks (after the initial decision should have been sent to you) in which to make the appeal. Consideration will be given to late applications in appropriate circumstances.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact me by telephone at 01 6782903.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Conaty
FOI Unit
07 April 2015

Re: FOI request 2015/18

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this body:

"All the documents/information submitted by Eirgrid to the EIP on 29th May and 19th June 2014. In addition we also request the minutes of the meeting between the EIP and EirGrid on 10th June 2014.

I, John Twomey HEO have now made a final decision to refuse your request on 07 April 2015

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision. This explanation has the following parts:

1. a schedule of all of the records covered by your request;
2. an explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied, and
3. a statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these three parts in turn.

1. Schedule of records

The Department has no such records.

2. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

Neither the Independent Expert panel nor Eirgrid fall under FOI currently, and so any communication between the two parties that is held in EirGrid or with IEP is not releasable.

3. Rights of appeal

In the event that you are unhappy with this decision you may appeal this it. In the event that you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit DCENR, Elm House Cavan or by e-mail to FOI UNIT@dcenr.gov.ie You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone on 016782151

Yours sincerely,

John Twomey
HEO