



An Coimisiún
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**Commission for
Regulation of Utilities**

INFORMATION NOTE (CRU202689)

ELECTRICITY CONNECTION POLICY – GENERATION AND SYSTEM SERVICES (ECP-GSS) – UPDATE ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRID APPLICATIONS FOR THE 30 SEPTEMBER 2026 BATCH (ECP-GSS-3)

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has today, 2 June 2026, published this Information Note to provide an update in relation to the requirements for entering the 30 September 2026 batch (ECP-GSS-3) arising from the *Electricity Connection Policy – Generation and System Services (ECP-GSS)* Decision Paper (CRU/2024101).

In particular, this Information Note should be read in conjunction with:

- i. *Electricity Connection Policy – Generation and System Services (ECP-GSS)* Decision Paper (CRU/2024101)
- ii. *ECP-GSS Pre-engagement and High-Level Technical Assessment* Decision Paper (CRU/202584)
- iii. *ECP GSS – Update on the Requirements for Grid Applications for the 30 September 2025 Batch* (CRU/2025123)
- iv. *ECP-GSS – Update on the Requirements for Grid Applications for the 31 March 2026 Batch* Information Papers (CRU/2025182).

Decisions

For the ECP-GSS-3 batch, the CRU has decided that:

- The requirement detailed within the ECP-GSS Decision (CRU/2024101) that Grid Applications for RED III projects must contain a valid HLTA is removed.
- Both RED III and non-RED III projects are required to submit a “Pre-application Notification” (PAN) to the relevant SO by 30 June 2026.

The process is detailed further below.



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Pre-Application Notification (PAN) Process

The process for the PAN will be broadly similar to that applied to the March 2026 ECP-GSS-2 and set out in CRU/2025182. To be specific, the PAN process for the September 2026 ECP-GSS-3 batch will be as follows:

- The requirement detailed within the ECP-GSS Decision (CRU/2024101) that Grid Applications for RED III projects must contain a valid HLTA is removed.
- Both RED III and non-RED III projects are required to submit a “Pre-application Notification” (PAN) to the relevant SO by 30 June 2026.
- The PAN will consist of an application form available on the relevant SO’s website¹.
- A non-refundable “Pre-application Notification deposit” of €7,000 or 50% of the Connection Offer Application Fee² whichever is lower, is payable to the relevant SO on submission of the Pre-application Notification. This deposit will be paid in the same manner as the Application Fee deposit under ECP-2 and applies to both RED III and non-RED III projects.
 - For community-led projects³, the non-refundable deposit will be €2,000.
- If a RED III or non-RED III project’s Grid Application has either not been submitted by the 30 September 2026 Batch Closing Deadline, or if it is submitted but the SO deems it not to be a valid application, then the project’s PAN will lapse and the project will forfeit its PAN deposit. In such instances, the Grid Application will not be processed.
- The Pre-application Notification form will consist of the following inputs:
 - Applicant Details
 - Applicant Name
 - Company Registration Number

¹ Currently: [ECP-GSS-Pre-Application-Notification-Form.pdf](#) and [E S B Networks Pre-Application Notification](#)

² See ESB Networks’ website for Applications Fees: [https://www.esbnetworks.ie/services/get-connected/renewable-connection/enduring-connection-policy-\(ecp\)](https://www.esbnetworks.ie/services/get-connected/renewable-connection/enduring-connection-policy-(ecp))

³ Projects must be 100% Renewable Energy Community (REC) owned to be considered a community-led renewable project. See Annex 3 of CRU/2024101 for the definition of an REC.



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- Contact Name and Details
- Community-Led Project Declaration (if applicable)
- Project Details
- Project Name
- Site Address
- Location Coordinates
- Generator Size (MEC and Installed Capacity)
- Technology Type
- Project Layout/planning footprint
- Number of turbines/solar panels (if applicable)
- Preferred Connecting Station (optional)
- Conductor Type
- Extension or New Project
- Preference for contestable or non-contestable (optional)
- Planning status⁴ e.g. the following as applicable:
 - date of application (if submitted)
 - evidence of planning acknowledgement of completeness
 - planning reference
 - expected date of planning permission grant
 - planning permission consents
 - expected date of submission of planning application

Following the 30 September 2026 Batch Closing Deadline, the processes set out in Section 3.3.1 of the *Electricity Connection Policy – Generation and System Services Decision Paper* (CRU/2024101) will continue to apply (i.e. the Batch Validity Check, Batch Qualification, Batch Publication, Connection Offer and Connection Acceptance

⁴ The CRU clarifies that planning permission in this context relates specifically to planning permission for the facility, as opposed to the grid connection.



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processes). Additionally, it should be noted that following the CRU/2024101 decision which introduced fees for non-exporting generation (MEC=0), the SOs updated their application fees on basis of installed capacity as opposed to Maximum Export Capacity (MEC). This was approved by the CRU in October 2025.

For both RED III and non-RED III applicants into the September 2026 batch, the SOs will carry out Phase 1 and Phase 2 engagements in a similar manner as detailed within the *Enduring Connection Policy Stage 2 (ECP-2)* Decision (CRU/20/060). Applicants will be provided the option to withdraw from the process during these phases for a refund of 75% of their full application fee, as per the rules set out in Section 2.5 of CRU/20/060.

Planning Acknowledgement of Completeness

Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 274 of 2025 was published in August 2025 which specifies the requirement for planning authorities to issue acknowledgements of completeness in respect of a RED III project's planning application (Planning Acknowledgements of Completeness – PACs). Due to a transitional period in the introduction of the issuances of PACs alongside amendments to ECP-GSS regarding Pre-Application Notifications, there are several possible scenarios as to application approach in relation to RED III timelines:

Scenario 1 – In instances where a project receives its PAC following the publication of this Information Note, the project must submit its grid application within 15 calendar days of the PAC for the overall RED III timelines to apply.

Scenario 2 – In instances in which a project has received a PAC prior to a previous ECP-GSS Batch Closing Deadline but has not applied into a previous batch (i.e. ECP-GSS-1 or ECP-GSS-2 in September 2025 and March 2026, respectively), the 15 calendar days requirement will not have been met and the overall RED III timelines will not apply.



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Scenario 3 – In instances where a project received its PAC following the ECP-GSS-2 31 March 2026 Batch Closing Deadline but before the publication of this Information Note, the overall RED III timelines will apply. In such instances, the Grid Applications are not subject to the 15-day requirement.

Scenario 4 – In instances where a project has not received a PAC prior to the publication of this Information Note, the project may provide either of the following subject to them being dated prior to the 30 September 2025 Batch Closing Deadline:

- a) a letter issued by the Local Authority in respect of the proposed development pursuant to Article 26(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2025, or
- b) correspondence issued by An Coimisiún Pleanála confirming the receipt of an application made for the proposed development under Section 37E or Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

The CRU emphasises that the SOs are still required to process the grid permit-granting element for all renewable energy projects within 12 months of the Batch Closing Deadline (or faster where required under CRU/2024101), irrespective of whether they have met the requirements set out for the “overall” RED III permit-granting timelines.

As this is a transitional measure to account for the introduction of the PAC process, for any future iteration, a project will be expected to have either a PAC or planning permission granted to apply into a batch.

Non-RED III Projects

As per CRU/2024101, “non-RED III projects” are required to have received planning permission before a Grid Application can be submitted to the SO. Therefore, the requirements regarding PACs or the letter / correspondence detailed above do not apply to such projects. As detailed in CRU/2024101, Grid Applications may be submitted at any



time prior to the 30 September 2026 Batch Closing Deadline, subject to planning permission being granted. In addition, the full application fee is payable.

Next Steps

The CRU is cognisant of the need for clarity on the enduring arrangements for pre-engagement for ECP-GSS. The CRU is currently involved in discussions with relevant stakeholders including DCEE and the SOs around aspects of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) which have relevance to the planning and grid interactions detailed above. The CRU expects that it will be able to publish a decision on the enduring arrangements for pre-engagement for ECP-GSS in due course.