

13th December 2024

Re: Offshore Renewable Energy in the next Programme for Government

A Thaoisigh, a chara,

Congratulations on your recent election to Dáil Éireann. I wish you every success in your role.

I am writing on behalf of the Cork Offshore Renewable Industry Forum (CORIF), a Cork Chamber initiative that brings together representatives of the offshore renewables industry in Cork to advocate for key policy and infrastructure enablers to capitalise on offshore renewables.

With the negotiations regarding the next Programme for Government underway, I would like to outline key measures for consideration to unlock Ireland's potential in offshore renewable energy:

- Developing renewable energy will bring environmental benefits and support enterprise by creating jobs, attracting vital FDI, and broadening the existing tax base by reducing reliance on energy-intensive industries. The next government must embed renewable energy targets in enterprise policy.
- Significant investment from private investors is needed to grow the renewables sector. The next government should prioritise enabling policies, including additional DMAPs and the swift implementation of the new Planning and Development Act, to build investor confidence. The National Hydrogen Strategy's implementation must also be accelerated.
- Ireland has immense potential to support a thriving national offshore renewables sector, with Cork well-placed to become the first of the national hubs for the sector. Many key industry players already have a significant presence in the region, which is also home to the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) and other important education and research institutions, such as the MaREI Centre. The Port of Cork has commenced a significant expansion to facilitate offshore renewable energy and is the only port in Ireland with the planning permission to do this. The next government should designate the Cork Harbour Region a hub for offshore renewables and develop the national Centre of Excellence, planned for under the 'Powering Prosperity' strategy, here in Cork.

The development of offshore renewable energy is vital for Ireland's future, securing social and economic benefits. Investment in critical infrastructure must be prioritised now.

I hope you will consider this critical policy area in your Programme for Government negotiations. Please find attached a one-pager with further information on the work of CORIF. I remain at your disposal for further discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Sheridan

Chair of the Cork Offshore Renewable Industry Forum