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Commission for Energy Regulation
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RE: CER/15/284 Review of Connection and Grid Access Policy: Initial Thinking & Proposed Transitional Arrangements

Dear Sir/Madam,

Solar is a renewable energy company active in development of solar PV projects in Ireland. The management team of Highfield Solar have been involved in the electricity generation sector in Ireland and Britain for over 10 years and have an extensive track record of successful energy-generation project delivery.

Highfield Solar fully supports the submission of the Irish Solar Energy Association to this consultation. We believe that connection policy should prioritise renewable generation given the adequacy of installed capacity and the clear policy direction to decarbonise the electricity sector. The non-GPA process should continue to operate with a planning filter applied until the enduring regime is operational to ensure the solar industry can continue to develop in the intervening period. Furthermore, sufficient resources should be allocated with the System Operators to ensure that projects which meet the qualification criteria and are willing to pay the associated processing fees are not unnecessarily delayed and processed in the timely manner. We support the principle of group processing with annual gates and generation plant planning permission as a qualification criterion. We caution that the timely delivery of grid offers is essential to such a process and would need to be resourced accordingly.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation and hope our views are considered carefully. We look forward to engaging with you during the next stage of the consultation.

Yours Sincerely,

Highfield Solar