

Addendum 3

LA01/2023/0008/F

1.0 Update

- 1.1 Policy RE 1 of PPS 18 Renewable Energy Development requires that the development has taken into consideration the cumulative impact of existing wind turbines, those which have permissions and those that are currently the subject of valid and undetermined applications. This policy requirement is addressed in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Commentary is provided on other windfarms. Figure 4.4.8 Cumulative Wind Farms depicts other windfarms diagrammatically. However, the assessment does not include any reference to the now consented Magheramore Wind Farm (Ref: LA01/2019/0922/F). This was allowed on appeal on 31 July 2025. This is located approx. 6.5km to the southwest of application site. On receipt of the application on 08 February 2023, the status of Magheramore Wind Farm was a valid and undetermined application. The status is now that it has full planning permission.
- 1.2 Not including Magheramore Wind Farm in the cumulative assessment is a significant omission that is contrary to the requirements of Policy RE1. It is appropriate that a revised cumulative assessment is undertaken to include the consented Magheramore Windfarm. This should be submitted to the Planning Department in the form of Further Environmental Information (FEI). This would be subject to consultation, including with NIEA Protected Landscapes Team.
- 1.3 Since the September Planning Committee further letters of representation have been received. There are currently 1410 letters of objection, 526 letters of support and 1 petition. The issues raised are similar to those previously raised and have been addressed in the Planning Committee Report or previous Addenda.

- 1.4 One representation raises concerns that the Planning Committee intend to make a determination in respect of the proposal without awaiting the outcome of the investigation commenced by the Council in respect of the status of the long-established walkways over Benbradagh mountain. At this time, there is no asserted Public Right of Way identified that the proposal would impact on. As such, the application remains on the agenda for the Planning Committee.
- 1.5 Another representation alleges that Addendum 2 contains factual inaccuracies about NIEA's radiological monitoring. Paragraph 1.14 of Addendum 2 refers to contamination and radiation from the Chernobyl disaster. It states that NIEA, within DAERA, carries out ongoing monitoring for land contamination from radioactivity, which includes residual effects from incidents like the 1986 Chernobyl accident. For clarity, DAERA does not undertake the sampling itself. Rather, the Environmental Health Department undertakes routine radiation sampling on behalf of DAERA as part of the UK's environmental radiation monitoring programme. Samples are collected locally by Councils and analysed centrally, with results reported through DAERA and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). The representation raises technical issues regarding Cs-137, a radioactive isotope. The position of NIEA Regulation Unit regarding contamination is set out in Addendum 2.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee note the contents of this Addendum and agree with a new recommendation to **defer the application** to allow submission of Further Environmental Information (FEI) regarding cumulative wind farm assessment.