



A message to you, our local representative

- I care about the marine life in our coastal waters.
- I want you to protect it as we develop Offshore Renewable Energy.

Wind turbines need to be placed where they do the least harm to our sensitive marine ecosystems – not on the sites that have been chosen by developers to maximise profits.

- I want you as my elected representative to be pro-active in safeguarding our marine and coastal ecosystems and ensuring they are not sacrificed for offshore wind infrastructure.
- I want you to make a public statement that you will support only Offshore Renewable Energy that fully complies with the following environmental safeguards:

An ecosystem-based approach to planning and development - the cornerstone of EU Environmental Law:

- The Habitats Directive
- The Birds Directive
- The Marine Spatial Planning Directive
- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- The Nature Restoration Law

I want you to ensure that the State commissions a fully independent Strategic Environmental Assessment to ascertain the cumulative environmental impact of all projects proposed and repeals Part 9 of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

Offshore renewable infrastructure is still infrastructure. It needs to be subject to **best-practice planning** and design, and requires **rigorous evaluation** using both environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments. When developing offshore renewable projects, it is therefore crucial to adopt an **ecosystem-based approach**, apply well-considered marine zonation, and support ocean resilience by staying within ecosystem boundaries. - *World Wildlife Fund, 2022.*