

## Invitation to Tender for Research

### Review of the environmental legislation underpinning the development of ORE in Ireland.

The Irish Environmental Network (IEN) is the umbrella network for national Environmental Non-Government Organisations (ENGOS) in the Republic of Ireland. It is made up of over 38 national ENGOS that work both individually and jointly to protect and enhance the environment, and to place environmental issues centre stage in Ireland and internationally. The IEN represents and supports national ENGOS, through capacity building and funding support and advocacy work.

The work of IEN members covers a broad range of areas including habitat conservation, wildlife protection, environmental education, sustainability, waste and energy issues, as well as environmental campaigning and lobbying.

#### **Project Aim:**

The main purpose of this project is to review the environmental legislation underpinning the development of Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) in Ireland, both at a national and EU level. We are particularly interested in understanding the place of the environment within the legislative framework; evaluating the robustness of the legislation in safeguarding the environment in the face of the biodiversity and climate crises; and identifying existing and remaining gaps in the legislation. To conclude, the analysis will propose solutions to strengthen the legislative framework to ensure it aligns with Ireland's commitments under international and EU environmental law, including but not limited to the EU Green Deal, the Habitats and Birds Directives, and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The project aims to provide actionable recommendations for achieving a balance between the rapid deployment of ORE and the preservation of marine biodiversity, ecosystems, and the rights and wellbeing of coastal communities. This legislative review will provide a critical resource for policymakers, stakeholders, and environmental advocates, equipping them with the tools to advance Ireland's ORE ambitions responsibly and sustainably.

#### **Key objectives include:**

- 1. Mapping the Current Legislative Landscape**
  - Conduct a comprehensive review of existing national and EU legislation relevant to ORE development, with a particular focus on environmental protection provisions.
  - Assess the integration of environmental considerations in permitting and decision-making processes.
- 2. Evaluating Legal Robustness**
  - Analyse the adequacy of current laws in addressing risks to biodiversity, marine ecosystems, and climate resilience.

- Examine how well these laws align with Ireland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.

### 3. Identifying Gaps and Barriers

- Identify any legal, procedural, or implementation gaps that could undermine environmental safeguards or delay sustainable ORE development.
- Highlight conflicts or inconsistencies between environmental protection goals and renewable energy objectives.

### 4. Developing Solutions and Recommendations

- Propose evidence-based legal and policy solutions to close identified gaps and enhance the protection of marine environments.
- Recommend best practices from other jurisdictions that successfully balance ORE development and environmental stewardship.

## Delivery

The main output will be a comprehensive legislative review report that critically evaluates the environmental legislation underpinning ORE development in Ireland. The report will be designed to support advocacy, inform decision-making, and guide future legislative reforms. Other outputs will likely include a lay-summary, as well as communication pieces to stakeholders, policymakers and the general public.

### ***The consultant will be expected to:***

- Carry out a comprehensive desk-based review of national and EU legislation
- Engage with other stakeholders, including legal experts, policymakers, and environmental groups, to ensure a balanced understanding of the legislative landscape.
- Produce a clear, well-structured detailed report
- Present findings and recommendations to the ORE Project team

## Criteria for Appointment

### Essential Criteria for Applicants:

- At least 2 years’ experience delivering similar legal, environmental, and/or policy-focused research projects.
- Proven experience in writing comprehensive reports on legislative or regulatory frameworks.
- Demonstrated knowledge of EU and Irish environmental and marine legislation, such as the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Strong research and analytical skills, with attention to detail
- A demonstrated ability to present complex information clearly and in an accessible way.

### Desirable

- Experience working with the NGO sector.
- Familiarity with Ireland’s biodiversity and climate commitments.
- Knowledge of relevant legislation from other jurisdictions

Submissions will be evaluated in accordance with following criteria:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Value for Money	Your submission should include a detailed breakdown of costs; this must include the proposed number of days work, and the daily fee rates.	30%
Previous experience & understanding of brief	Evidence of skills/experience including brief portfolio of relevant work is required (At least 3 examples); information/CVs on who will be delivering the project	30%
Delivery methodology	Tenderers must describe the methodology they will use to carry out the project with specific reference to both the tasks and the processes and approach to be followed.	40%
Timeframe	Ability to complete work within the agreed timeframe	Pass/Fail

Failure to include all of the above may lead to disqualification.

### **Timeframe and Reporting**

The programme will run from February 2025 until end May 2025, with the following milestones anticipated:

- Tender selection and signature of contract – February 2025
- Project Initiation – February 2025
- Agreed priority actions – mid February 2025
- Final report – May 2025

The project will be managed by the IEN ORE Project Coordinator with support from member organisations from the IEN.

The successful tenderer will be required to report regularly to the Project Coordinator.

### **Budget**

A maximum sum of €10,000 inc. VAT is available for this contract, which must include all other expenses including any travel, personal expenses, events or other engagements.

Tenderers should price accordingly to gain a competitive advantage.

Tenders received over this amount will not be considered.

### **Proposal Submissions**

All submissions must be submitted via email to [office@ien.ie](mailto:office@ien.ie) by noon on **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Any queries should be submitted in writing by noon **Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**.

***We are not bound to accept either the lowest or any of the quotes received.***

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An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



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Environmental  
Network