



The wind at your back

Experienced lawyers in offshore wind

Offshore wind in Ireland

With a large ocean territory and high wind conditions, Ireland has some of the best offshore wind resources in Europe. To date, Ireland has only installed 25MW of offshore wind capacity, however the Irish offshore wind sector has gathered huge momentum in recent years, with over 20 projects now in the pipeline.

This change is underpinned by a number of key developments, including:

- incoming maritime legislation, which will increase efficiency in planning and consenting applications for offshore projects;
- a Government commitment to install 5GW of offshore wind by 2030, with an aim of installing 30GW of floating wind after 2030;
- future offshore specific state-backed subsidy auctions, providing long term price certainty for projects;
- the preparation of a new Grid Development Policy for offshore wind; and
- huge advancements in turbine technology in recent years as well as falling costs associated with developing offshore projects.

These developments have created a clear pathway for offshore wind to become a major success in Ireland in the coming years.

Why Eversheds Sutherland?

We have acted for 40% of all renewable energy facilities on the island of Ireland.

Our energy lawyers work almost exclusively in the industry and have an acute awareness of the types of issues and challenges that our clients face.

Our lawyers have a broad spectrum of experience in the energy industry and have advised on:

- Offshore planning applications
- Offshore M&A transactions
- Offshore specific regulatory issues
- Project development and construction
- Project finance
- Dispute resolution
- Tax issues

We also have extensive experience from offshore wind projects in the UK market which we can utilise for Irish offshore wind projects.

Industry involvement

Mark Varian, Head of Energy at Eversheds Sutherland Ireland, is highly regarded in the energy sector. He is a founder and former Secretary of the Irish Solar Energy Association; Chairman of the Energy & Environment Committee of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce; and an active member of both Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) and the Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group (NIRIG). Mark has also chaired a number of sessions at the WEI bi-annual conference.

Facilitating cross border activity

We are the only international law firm with the capability to offer cross-jurisdictional legal advice to clients in Northern Ireland and Ireland. We have energy professionals in our offices in Dublin, Belfast and across Great Britain. We also work closely with more than 300 energy and infrastructure colleagues across 69 offices in 32 countries, allowing us to provide a seamless service throughout Europe, US, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Recent experience in Ireland and the UK

Our offshore experience includes advising:

- **Codling Wind Park Limited** in relation to the proposed development of a 2.1GW offshore wind project in Ireland
- **Shell** on the entry into its partnership with Simply Blue Energy, which will develop a floating wind farm in the Celtic Sea
- **EirGrid** and **Réseau de Transport d'électricité** on the proposed and ongoing joint procurement of the €1bn Celtic Electricity Interconnector - a 500km interconnector between Ireland and France
- **Oriel Wind Farm** in relation to the negotiation of a foreshore lease for its proposed €1bn offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea
- **Oriel Wind Farm** in relation to the sale of Grid Connection Assets to Element Power
- The shareholders of **Oriel Wind Farm** in relation to the sale of their interest to Parkwind
- **Saorgus Energy** in relation to the acquisition of its interest in the Dublin Array Offshore Wind Project
- **Sure Partners** in relation to the Arklow Bank Project (Sure Partners were the original developers of the Arklow Bank Project)
- **Forewind Consortium** in relation to the development of the Dogger Bank Wind Farm (7.2GW)
- **Statkraft** on the acquisition of its interest in the 500MW Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm
- **SSE** in relation to the acquisition of Walney I and Walney II Offshore Wind Farms including advising on all construction contracts (TSA and O&M)
- **SSE** in relation to the financing by the incoming shareholder of its interest in the Walney I Offshore Wind Project
- **SSE** in relation to the financing by a major shareholder of its interest in the Walney II Offshore Wind Project
- **RWE** in relation to the Gwynt y Mor Offshore Wind Project (included advising on cable supply and installation and drafting an innovative modular-based contract)
- **Forewind Consortium** in relation to an initial phase construction contracts on their Round 3 offshore wind projects
- **Centrica** on the construction of its offshore wind projects including the Lincs and Dogger Bank projects
- **Airtricity/Flour JV** in relation to its initial construction works on the Greater Gabbard offshore project

What do our clients say?

A respondent notes that the lawyers' strength lies in their *"client focus and ability to work collectively with the client's wider team to find solutions."*

Chambers Europe 2021

An interviewee finds the team members to be *"very knowledgeable in the area of renewable energy."*

Chambers Europe 2021

Clients report that Mark Varian is *"very knowledgeable about the renewable energy market in Ireland, and his advice is practical and business-oriented."*

Chambers Europe 2021

Sources describe Mark Varian as an *"experienced, commercial and committed" partner who has "an excellent knowledge of the energy industry."*

Chambers Europe 2020

"They are very knowledgeable in the renewable energy sector. They are also very commercial in terms of negotiations with the counterparty's lawyers, and their responses are very quick."

Chambers Europe 2020

"They are pragmatic in their approach."

Chambers Europe 2020

Legal updates

We offer briefings and alerts on the latest issues facing the energy sector. If you would like to receive these alerts, please sign up to our energy mailing list [here](#).

What happens next?

For more information, please contact:



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