



Mullingar-Kinnegad 110 kV Project

Proximity Payments
What they are and how to apply



The current. The future.

Who are EirGrid - and what do we do?

At EirGrid, it is our responsibility to develop and operate Ireland's electricity transmission network. This is the high-voltage grid that moves power throughout Ireland. We also connect electricity generators, and supply industries that need large amounts of energy. Finally, our grid powers the distribution network. This network sends electricity to homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, factories and farms.

EirGrid is a state-owned business. This means we do our work for the benefit and safety of every citizen in Ireland. It's our job to make sure that everyone has the light, heat and power they need. But when we develop or expand our grid, this work will affect people who live near new transmission lines.

In some locations, and to some observers, electricity transmission lines have a visual impact on the landscape. Particularly in residential areas, they can seem intrusive when first built.

This is why, in January 2014, EirGrid developed a system of Proximity Payments. We introduced these after a consultation process where we listened to public feedback.

We're building a more efficient, more effective and more economic electricity network – but we can't do this without you.



What are Proximity Payments?

These payments are a positive and fair response to public concerns. We do this as a gesture of goodwill, and not due to any legal obligation. These payments are intended to share the benefits of a better network with the communities and home owners who help make the grid better.

EirGrid operates thousands of kilometres of power lines across the island of Ireland. These power lines need many pylons and transmission stations.

When EirGrid plans routes for new lines, we consider many factors. These include the need to protect the interests of individuals, households, businesses and communities.

We aim to create as little disturbance as possible, but it's hard to avoid private, business or community property.

In 2012, the Government issued a policy statement on this issue. This statement recommended that EirGrid should provide a direct benefit to surrounding communities when we build new lines.

In response, we created a dedicated fund. This fund will make payments to those who are closest to new transmission infrastructure.

From the earliest stages, we develop and refine possible solutions. Throughout this process, we have an active and open consultation process with the public. This happens long before we construct anything.

Our goal is to find a final proposal that is fair, and that impacts the least number of homeowners.

After we finalise the route and start construction, we then make proximity payments to homeowners near a new line.



Typical 110 kV pylon (steel lattice tower)

What is the Mullingar-Kinnegad 110 kV Project?

This is a new 110 kV electricity line, spanning approximately 24km. It will run between existing transmission stations in Mullingar and Kinnegad across Counties Westmeath and Meath.

This line will improve the security of electricity supply to the region. At present, increased demand for energy is straining the existing electricity transmission network. As a result of this, the 110 kV network is approaching its technical limits.

At the moment, EirGrid supplies electricity to Mullingar with only two 110 kV overhead lines. This project will add a third line, which is a standard solution for a town of Mullingar's size.

Adding this new 110 kV line will make a significant improvement to the electricity transmission network. This will benefit the quality, flow and security of electricity for the region.

An Bord Pleanála granted Planning Approval for this new line in January 2013.

We will make Proximity Payments to homeowners within 200m of pylons along the new Mullingar-Kinnegad 110 kV line. This booklet explains how this will work.

What do we mean by 'Home'?

For Proximity Payments, the word 'Home' means a currently occupied residential property. It can also refer to the footprint of a proposed home on a site with full planning permission for a residential property. In all cases, we make Proximity Payments to the owner of the property.

What do we mean by 'Pylon'?

We define a pylon as a steel lattice tower that carries electricity lines.

Please see the terms and conditions at the back of this booklet for more definitions and details.



How do Proximity Payments work?

We know that individuals and communities may have concerns about new transmission infrastructure. In particular, we understand your worries about the visual impact of new lines. For this reason, EirGrid aims - as much as is practical - to find routes that avoid residential property.

While every city, town and village needs electricity, we live in a dispersed way across a small island. This makes it impossible for new electricity transmission lines to completely avoid residential areas.

Where we can't avoid homes, we then look for a corridor that maintains the greatest and fairest distance between new lines and these homes. For example, this might mean passing a new line half way between two properties.

On the Mullingar project, if we have to put a new 110 kV pylon 200 metres or closer to a home, the owners of that home are eligible for a Proximity Payment.

Finally, Proximity Payments only apply when we build certain infrastructure on a greenfield site. Specifically, new overhead transmission lines and new rural transmission stations. These payments do not apply to upgrades or refurbishments on existing lines or stations.

Our electricity transmission network carries electricity at different voltages across the island of Ireland. The voltage depends on the distance travelled, and the area served by each transmission route.

Throughout this booklet you will find specific information relating to Proximity Payments for the new Mullingar - Kinnegad 110 kV line.

For 110 kV lines, we measure distances from the centre point of a pylon to the closest point of nearby homes. EirGrid surveyors will make these measurements.

110 kV

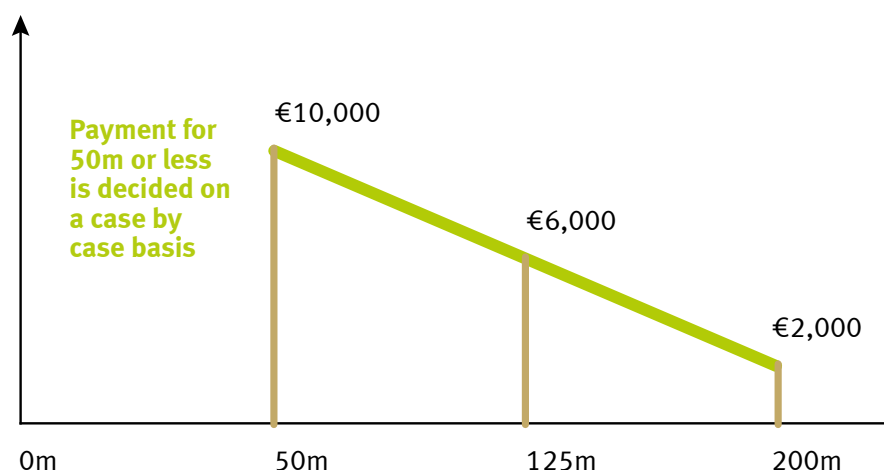
Proximity Payments for new 110 kV lines

We base this payment on the distance from the centre point of a new pylon. We measure this distance to the closest part of the building that is your home.

If this distance is between 50 and 200 metres, you may be eligible for a payment.

We calculate the payment amount based on the distance between your home and the closest new pylon. Homes nearer the new pylon will receive a higher payment. Payments start from €2,000 at 200 m. This payment increases at a rate of €53.334 per metre, to an upper limit of €10,000 at 50 m.

If your home is less than 50 metres away from a pylon, we will consider your case based on its specific circumstances.



Distance from centre point of pylon to home in metres

Examples

- Your home is 50m from the centre of the nearest pylon on a 110 kV line: **Your payment is €10,000**
- Your home is 51m from the centre of the nearest pylon on a 110 kV line: **Your payment is €10,000 - €53.334 = €9,946.67**
- Your home is 130m from the centre of the nearest pylon on a 110 kV line: **Your payment is €10,000 - €4,266.72 (i.e. 80 x €53.334) = €5,733.28**
- Your home is 200m from the centre of the nearest pylon on a 110 kV line: **Your payment is €2,000**

Proximity Payments How will they work?

Step 1

EirGrid directly approaches home owners near a new 110 kV pylon. We will explain the plan and offer application details.

Step 2

Apply for your Proximity Payment using the official form.

Step 3

EirGrid assesses your application. We will then confirm the offer, or explain why you are not eligible.

Step 4

Accept EirGrid's offer in writing. We also need your bank details, and proof of your ownership, identity and address.

Step 5

EirGrid pays 20% of the agreed Proximity Payment when construction has commenced and your application has been processed.

Step 6

When the line is energised, you need to reconfirm proof of ownership, identity and address. EirGrid will then send your final 80% payment.



Terms & Conditions for Proximity Payments

Proximity Payments

How do I apply?

Where Proximity Payments apply to a project, EirGrid makes payments once three conditions are met. First, we need to have agreed a route. Second, we must have secured planning consent. And third, construction must have started.

Each of these three events can only happen after an extensive consultation process. During this consultation, all homeowners have the opportunity to express their concerns. These views can influence aspects of EirGrid's plans.

When work starts on a new line, EirGrid will make direct contact with affected homeowners. We will then provide details of the Proximity Payments.

If you believe you are eligible to apply for a Proximity Payment, you will find an application form and instructions in the pocket of this pack. You can also download this application form from the EirGrid website.

Please complete your application and send it to EirGrid. We will then assess your application and confirm the offer, or explain why you are not eligible. Fully completed application forms must be received within 6 calendar months after the energisation of the line.

If we approve a payment, we will ask you to accept the offer and supply your bank details using our offer acceptance form. We also require proof of ownership, identity and address.

Once you complete and send this information back to us, we will then make 20% of the agreed payment when construction has commenced.

We will pay the remaining 80% when the new line goes into commission. As this can happen months or years after the first payment, we will need you to send us updated proof of ownership, identity and address.

We can help with any questions about applying, or about the details of the Proximity Payment offered to you. Just get in touch with your local EirGrid representative using the contact details in this pack.

EirGrid reserves its right to amend any of the Terms and Conditions relating to Proximity Payments at any time, without notice to any person.

“Announcement of the Least Constrained Corridor” means the date on which it is officially announced by EirGrid that the least constrained corridor for the overhead power line has been determined. This date will be made available to the public via press release and will be published on www.eirgrid.com/proximitypayments

“Construction” means the date upon which works are commenced to begin physically building the new 110 kV overhead power line in question. There will be a press release announcing this date, and the date will be published on www.eirgrid.com/proximitypayments - 20% of the Proximity Payment is due from this date.

“Energisation” means the date upon which electricity first flows through the new 110 kV overhead power line, on a commercial basis. There will be a press release announcing this date and further the date will be published on www.eirgrid.com/proximitypayments - 80% of the Proximity Payment is due from this date.

“Ex-gratia Payment” refers to all Proximity Payments made by EirGrid to any person who qualifies for any Proximity Payment, without any further legal obligation. The payment is not being made due to a legal obligation and is not an acknowledgement of the same. It is

to be regarded as a payment which is being paid by EirGrid to any third party without conditions attached, and no liability arises to either party in the event of any such payment, quantum or otherwise, if and when made.

Dispute Resolution

In the event of any dispute arising between EirGrid and the Owner, the applicant may at any time refer the dispute to EirGrid's stakeholder complaints procedure. This complaints procedure may be located on www.eirgrid.ie/proximitypayments

“Distance” shall be measured by EirGrid only, and the Owner will accept this determination, as final. For 110 kV lines, we measure the horizontal distance from the centre of the pylon (steel lattice tower) to the closest point of the building comprising your house or closest point of proposed house in the case of a site with full planning permission.

“Owner” means an applicant for Proximity Payments at Construction and / or Energisation in respect of persons who own a Residential Property or (habitable) Dwelling or a Site with full planning permission for a house.

“Proximity Payment” refers to a payment which may be paid in two separate stages namely at Construction and / or Energisation to the Owner of a Residential Property which stands no farther than 200 m from the centre of a new 110 kV pylon (steel lattice tower), subject to these terms and conditions which may be amended from time to

Terms & Conditions for Proximity Payments

time. In the event of a conflict between these terms and conditions and any other proximity payment documents, the former shall prevail. Proximity payments do not apply to upgrades or refurbishments on existing lines or stations. Fully completed applications for proximity payments must be received by EirGrid within 6 months after the date of Energisation in order to qualify for payment. Depending on the date of application, either the 20% Construction payment and / or 80% Energisation payment can be applied for.

“Proximity Payment Documents” means all documents relating to Proximity Payments, including Proximity Payments introduction and applications pack, eligibility application form, payment instruction form, these Terms and Conditions and all documents on www.eirgrid.com/proximitypayments

“House” or “Home” means an occupied, self-contained residential property that is suitable to live in. The property must attach to the ground in a permanent way: this excludes mobile homes, vehicles, ships or boats. The owner of the property must have freehold rights, or have a lease with at least 50 years remaining.

“Site with Planning” means a site for which a planning application was lodged prior to the date of Announcement of the Least Constrained Corridor. A Proximity Payment may only be applied for once a full grant of planning permission has been granted, for the construction of a Residential Property.

Disclaimer

EirGrid, on receipt of valid eligibility application form and payment instruction forms may, at its' sole discretion, make an ex-gratia proximity payment to owners of Residential Property or sites with planning permission. Such payments are not an acknowledgement of any liability by EirGrid Plc (“EirGrid”). These payments are non-statutory payments. EirGrid, its' subsidiaries, affiliates, contractors and / or agents accept no liability whatsoever for any payment(s) made on an ex-gratia basis to any person. EirGrid shall not accept liability for any loss, with respect to any payment or non-payment howsoever arising, under any circumstances.

All Documents, Terms & Conditions etc. relating to Proximity Payments are available on www.eirgrid.com/proximitypayments or alternatively from:-

EirGrid Plc, Manager, Proximity Payment Applications, The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 FW28

Data Protection Notice:

EirGrid Plc shall retain all information in accordance with best practice and the Data Protection Acts 1998-2003.



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