



Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin
D02 X285

Via email only to: SIU@decc.gov.ie

17 May 2023

Re. DECC Statement of Strategy 2023-2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI) promotes and advances the science of geology and its professional application in Ireland. The IGI has over 300 members working in a range of areas including minerals and exploration, environmental geology, hydrogeology, engineering geology among others. The IGI is a voluntary organisation and a registered charity. It ensures that its members uphold, develop and maintain the highest professional standards. A stated objective of the IGI is to promote improvements in the law and take any other steps and proceedings as may be deemed necessary in the interests of the IGI and its members.

The IGI wishes to make the following observations and wishes to note the role of the geoscientist in achieving Ireland's and the DECC goals including:

- leading in climate action,
- energy transition,
- transition to a circular economy,
- ensuring best in class governance and regulation.

The IGI has established a number of Committees and Working Groups which are aligned with a number of the national goals including a Minerals Information Working Group (MIWG) and Energy Geoscientists Working Group. The MIWG have assisted in preparing this submission on behalf of IGI.

In 2019 the IGI established the MIWG comprising geoscientists from a range of disciplines who have a connection to mineral exploration or mining. In 2021 the MIWG produced a series of information sheets which are available through the IGI's website.

The current DECC Statement of Strategy Le Chéile 23 sets out a vision of a climate neutral, sustainable and digitally connected Ireland with five strategic goals. Each of these goals are ultimately underpinned by sustainable resource use. The immense challenge of climate action, along with the transformation of our energy system to net zero emissions, will be founded on the switch from burning fossil fuels to renewables including geothermal and metals-based technologies and battery storage. However, this will only be an equitable transition if it is fair for all society through sustainable, circular principles and responsible regulation.

Company number 314400. Directors: Suzanne Tynan, Yvonne O'Connell, Cian O'Hora, Eoin Wyse



Member of the
European Federation
of Geologists

The Institute of Geologists of Ireland

63 Merrion Square, Dublin, D02 TW21, Ireland
Tel: +353 1 662 4914 e-mail: info@igi.ie web: www.igi.ie



As the country moves forward on its journey towards a sustainable future, the global consequences of climate change and geopolitical uncertainty continue to have impacts on all our lives. In consideration of this, the MIWG feels that the DECC Statement of Strategy should further recognise the need for metals and minerals to achieve its vision.

There is potential for Ireland to contribute substantially to the switch from fossil fuels to metal based technologies, in that there are viable and extractable lithium deposits in Ireland. In addition, there is also potential for Ireland to be instrumental in supplying metals and minerals for future battery technologies such as providing zinc for zinc-air batteries. The Government have an opportunity to lead the way in supporting research into such technologies, and in the management and operation of these extraction industries, leading the country into having a secure, ethical and domestic battery material supply.

To achieve best in class governance and regulation to Department must ensure that its geoscience bodies, including the Geoscience Regulation Office, Environmental Protection Agency, Geological Survey and Planning Regulators retain their excellent technical expertise and have sufficient resources to meet current and future needs.

The continued support of the Department will ensure the geoscience sector including; exploration and mining industries, geothermal energy, materials production and recycling, environmental assessment, groundwater development and protection can contribute to the vision of a climate neutral, sustainable and digitally connected Ireland.

We would be delighted to assist with any further queries you might have regarding any of the above.

Yours sincerely,

EurGeol Cian O'Hora PGeo
President

On behalf of the IGI