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Covid-19: impact on the  
energy sector in Ireland

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## New Programme for Government

- General election held on 8 February 2020
- Caretaker Government remained in place until a new coalition Government was formed on 27 June 2020
- Programme for Government: strong commitments to climate action

## Public Health Measures

- Health (Preservation and Protection and other Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) Act 2020
- Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid-19) Act 2020
- Health Act 1947 (Section 31A – Temporary Restrictions) (Covid-19) Regulations 2020
- “Essential services” included electric power generation, transmission and distribution; extraction and distribution of gas; water collection, treatment and supply; repair/construction of critical road and utility infrastructure

## Specific Measures

- Measures to protect domestic customers: temporary moratorium on disconnections for non-payment; increase in emergency credit for gas prepayment meters from €10 to €100
- Temporary Supply Suspension Scheme available to Small and Medium Enterprises that have been closed due to Covid-19 restrictions
- Planning and Development: Government Order to disregard the initial crisis period (29 March – 23 May) when calculating deadlines relating to applications, appeals, decisions and enforcement
- RESS 1 Auction timetable delayed

## Ongoing impact in the energy sector

- Market: fall in energy consumption and prices
- Construction: employers must take into account the Government's Return to Work Safely Protocol; contractors are required to comply with CIF's Standard Operating Procedure
- Health and Safety Authority: monitoring of compliance with new workplace measures, with particular focus on construction
- Impact on costs and programme for works
- Projects continuing to reach financial close

## Looking forward

- Emergency restrictions being gradually lifted
- Climate Action Bill to be introduced within first 100 days
- Commitment to 51% reduction in overall GHG from 2021 to 2030, and to achieving net zero emissions by 2050
- Development of a stronger National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030
- RESS 1 Auction to proceed; first auction for offshore wind in 2021
- Carbon tax to increase to €100 per tonne by 2030
- Decarbonisation of road transport: ban on registration of new fossil-fuelled cars and light vehicles from 2030 onwards; public procurement framework for EVs



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Thank you

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