

Statement from SEAI Regarding Revisions to Energy in Ireland 2023 Report

In mid-November 2024, suggestions were made in some media outlets that SEAI was subject to improper influence in revisions made to the Energy in Ireland 2023 report. SEAI wish to publicly state the full and factual position for the avoidance of doubt, and we do so now following the general election to avoid politicisation of the matter.

SEAI is a state agency whose responsibilities include a statutory function to prepare and publish Ireland's energy statistics and model Ireland's energy projections. All SEAI reports are prepared by our expert analysts, based on independent, objective, robust and high-quality data and evidence. SEAI has a long and highly respected track record of published reports. Any review of Executive Summaries or Forewords to recent SEAI reports will clearly demonstrate SEAI's independence and strong messaging on the actions required, including by government, to achieve Ireland's energy transition.

SEAI states that the statistical energy and emissions data in the Energy in Ireland 2023 report is unchanged since its original publication on 13 December 2023. SEAI amended narrative text in three paragraphs within the 170-page report. This was done to avoid misinterpretation of the data that could be caused by incomplete language used in the original version. Specifically, the report was interpreted by some to suggest that offshoring of CO2 emissions, due to interconnection, was a policy strategy. The factual position is that the reduced emissions were a consequence of a properly functioning, interconnected, transnational electricity grid. The decision to amend the language was made independently by SEAI, without any request or direction, and was done so to explain the data more comprehensively.

SEAI's data and insights reports are a critical pillar that helps inform sustainable energy policy formulation and implementation in Ireland. For that reason, SEAI reserves the right to revise reports where and when necessary, either to correct factual errors or to revise language for the purpose of clarification and the avoidance of misinterpretation.

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