



Oifig an
Rialaitheora Pleanála
Office of the
Planning Regulator



Electricity Transmission & Distribution The Challenges and Opportunities Elected Members Training – January 2026

A Guide to the Webinar Recording

You can find the recording and further resources from this training [here](#).

Introduction to EirGrid – 00:00 to 03:25

Jennifer Boyle, Senior Planning and Consents Lead, EirGrid.

Jennifer outlines EirGrid's role as Ireland's transmission system operator, responsible for moving electricity from generation to where it is needed. She explains EirGrid's position within the wider electricity network, the types of infrastructure it manages, and current grid conditions, including rising demand and the shift towards renewable energy.

Introduction to ESB Networks – 03:25 to 09:45

Sean Mulvey, Manager Site Acquisitions & Major Projects, ESB.

Sean explains ESB Networks' functions as the Distribution System Operator and transmission asset owner. He clarifies the types of work ESB Networks undertakes, outlines the ESB Networks distribution programme, and highlights key operational challenges.

Planning and Delivering the Electricity Transmission Network – 10:47 to 33:55

Jennifer Boyle, Senior Planning and Consents Lead, EirGrid – 10:47 to 19:25

Jennifer summarises electricity planning at national, regional and local levels. She discusses demand and generation forecasts, reviews the transmission system map, and explains why grid reinforcement is required.

Sinéad Dooley, Head of Public Engagement, EirGrid – 19:25 to 33:55

Sinéad emphasises the importance of early community and councillor engagement in delivering grid projects. She outlines EirGrid's six-step, end-to-end project delivery approach and draws on her experience as a former elected member. She also explains EirGrid's community development initiatives, including supporting Community Benefit Funds, and the role of policy in enabling grid delivery.

ESBN PR6 (2026 – 2030) Distribution Work – 34:45 to 56:00

Sean Mulvey, Manager Site Acquisitions & Major Projects, ESB.

Sean provides an overview of ESB Networks -led infrastructure projects. He highlights collaboration with local authorities and development agencies and explains how ESB Networks is adapting to meet increased demand, presenting case studies from Grangegorman and Portlaoise. He also outlines ESB's involvement in the Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce and relevant elements of its action plan.

A Local Authority Perspective – 56:50 to 1:07:35

David O'Hara, Senior Planner, Laois County Council.

David shares insights from working with ESB Networks to resolve electricity infrastructure challenges in Portlaoise. He stresses the value of ongoing engagement with service providers and the importance of connecting with the right stakeholders early.

END