

To: The Taoiseach, Mr Leo Varadkar, TD.

Subject: Comments on the Draft National Risk Assessment 2018 - specifically on the Risks ascribed to Climate Change and Energy Security {Sections 5.1 and 5.2}.

Dear Taoiseach,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Risk Assessment 2018, and I am delighted that you seek "discordant or minority" views that challenge "group think".

5.1 Risk ascribed to Climate Change

Climate alarmism is probably the most erroneous "group think" of modern times, both in Ireland and in Europe. I attach an objective overview of climate science, which also represents the broad consensus of those in the Irish Climate Science Forum (ICSF). In essence, the latest science indicates that global temperature increases due to increasing GHG are considerably less than predicted by IPCC, and that solar and other natural influences are also at play.

This real science supports prudent mitigation and adaptation measures that are good for the environment, society and the economy. However, there is no justification for panic measures based on the perception of a climate emergency (such as in the recent Opposition led Bill to ban offshore exploration). Those who crafted Ireland's 2020 (and 2030) commitments were clearly unaware of the implied actions and costs (which may be significantly greater than the fines now threatened). Incidentally, the good news is that low climate temperature sensitivity may imply that the Paris Agreement goals can be achieved without significant global GHG mitigation.

5.2 Risk ascribed to Energy Security

By 2025, Ireland will have a major energy security risk concerning natural gas supply. Then the Corrib Field will be declining in output, without any other indigenous source in sight; supplies from the UK post-Brexit will be less reliable contractually and technically due to depletion of its North Sea resources. Therefore, Ireland must look to constructing an LNG import terminal (whether as a private or public project) as a matter of immediate priority. This consideration will be even more urgent and important if it is decided to phase out coalfiring in Moneypoint. To conclude, Ireland's energy security is a real and urgent risk. I hope these comments may be helpful, and I would be delighted to discuss these further.