



Luxembourg, 19 December 2023

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Project Name:	AN POST INNOVATION AND DIGITALISATION
Project Number:	2018-0596
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	

The project relates to a major upgrade of the parcel sorting infrastructure to radically improve the service offering in this growing market. The project also includes the digitalisation of the promoter's core infrastructure to ensure efficiency, flexibility and traceability in the mail and parcel business. By using analytics and mobile technologies, the promoter has deepened the relationship with its customers and facilitate their access to a growing range of services such as expanded government services and e-commerce. Furthermore, new retail financial services have been developed through digital channels and physical outlets with appropriate digital infrastructure. Finally, the project has helped to reduce the promoter's CO2 footprint through adoption of a fleet of electric delivery vehicles and related charging infrastructure.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.**

The project was composed of several subcomponents. Development and roll-out of new IT systems and solutions has supported the promoter in its migration towards the delivery of advanced postal and digital services. Furthermore, it included the investments in new high-performance parcel sorting equipment and the fitting-out of a new state-of-the-art sorting centre. In order to modernize its last-mile distribution network and to make it more energy efficient, around 25% of the project costs were linked to the acquisition of 1020 electrical delivery vehicles, together with the charging infrastructure. It represented the replacement of 1/3 of the current diesel fleet. Finally, the project included the installation of solar panels. Originally foreseen to be installed on 14 post office properties for a total green electricity production of 270 MWh per annum, the deployment focused finally on 2 sites with an expected green electricity production of 570 MWh per annum. Around 31% of the project has been invested in Energy Efficiency components, aiming at reducing the promoter's CO2 emissions.

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<sup>1</sup> The template is for ILs and FLs



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Neither the IT activities nor the postal developments included in the project fall under any Annexes of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU. Moreover, the activities have been carried out in existing facilities already authorised that did not change their scope due to the project. The commissioning of new parcel sorting equipment has been carried out in an existing facility already authorised, juxtaposed to the Dublin Parcel Handling centre (DPH).

In 2022, the Promoter achieved a 39.54% improvement in energy efficiency (2009 as base year), in line with its objectives to meet 50% reduction in its carbon footprint by 2030 and a zero-carbon footprint by 2050, as asked by the Irish Government's policy to State Owned companies. The Promoter is accredited for the ISO 50001 (Energy) and the ISO 14001 (Environment).

The traditional postal business is in decline and is being impacted by technology. This has led to a long-term decline in the number of employees. A key strand of the new Promoter's corporate strategy was to stabilise medium term workforce numbers in sustainable jobs as the company develops its offering and automated traditional processes. This objective has been exceeded as more than 530 new employees have been hired to cope with the surge in packets and parcels delivery started during the pandemic and to operate the new range of financial and e-commerce services.

No significant environment or social issues were noted.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, and/or inputs provided by Lenders' Supervisors and others, where applicable, during Construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.