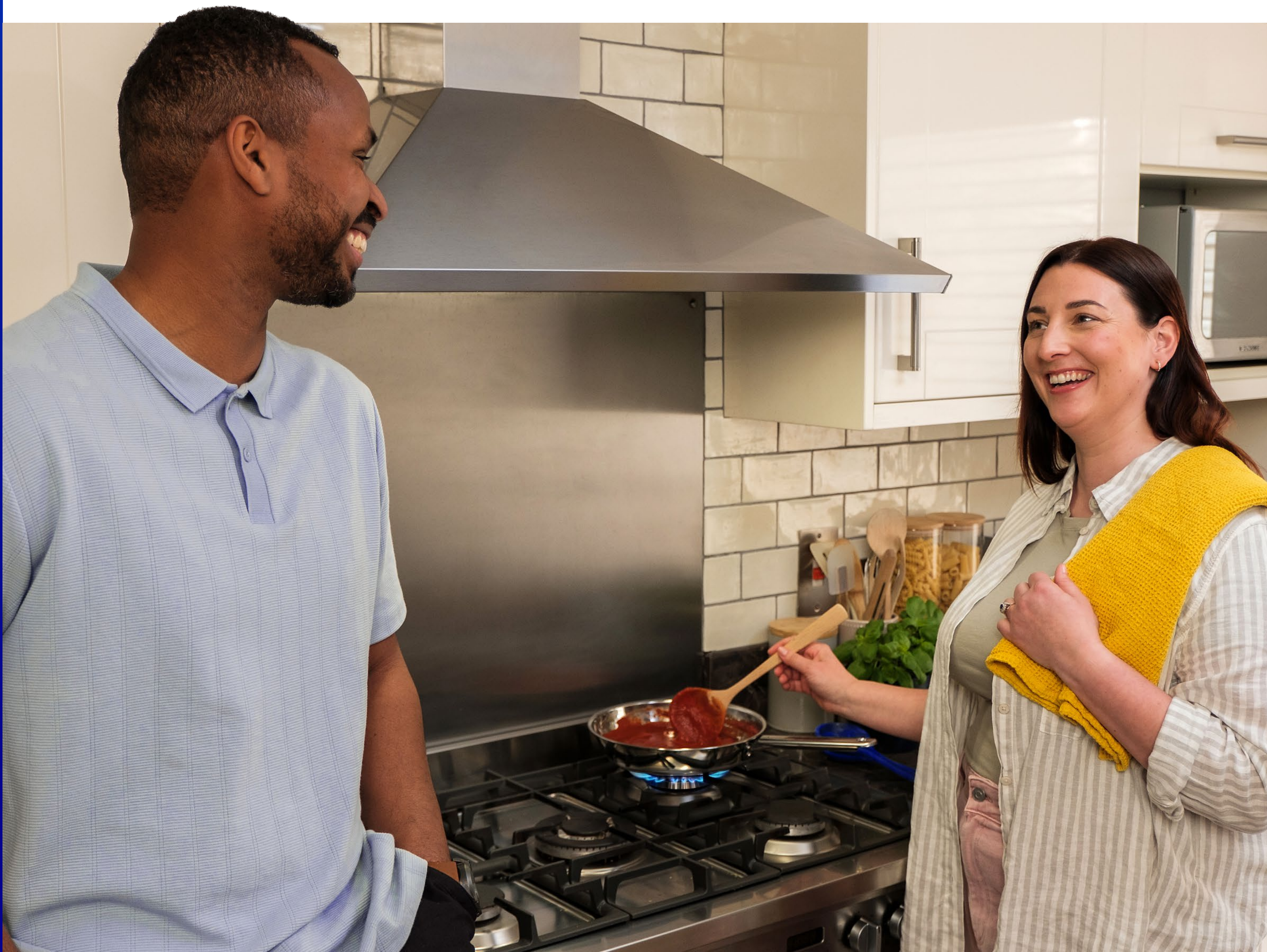
PRICE CONTROL (PC6)

Public consultation

Shaping Gas Networks Ireland's Proposed PC6 Business Plan 2027-2032

September 2026



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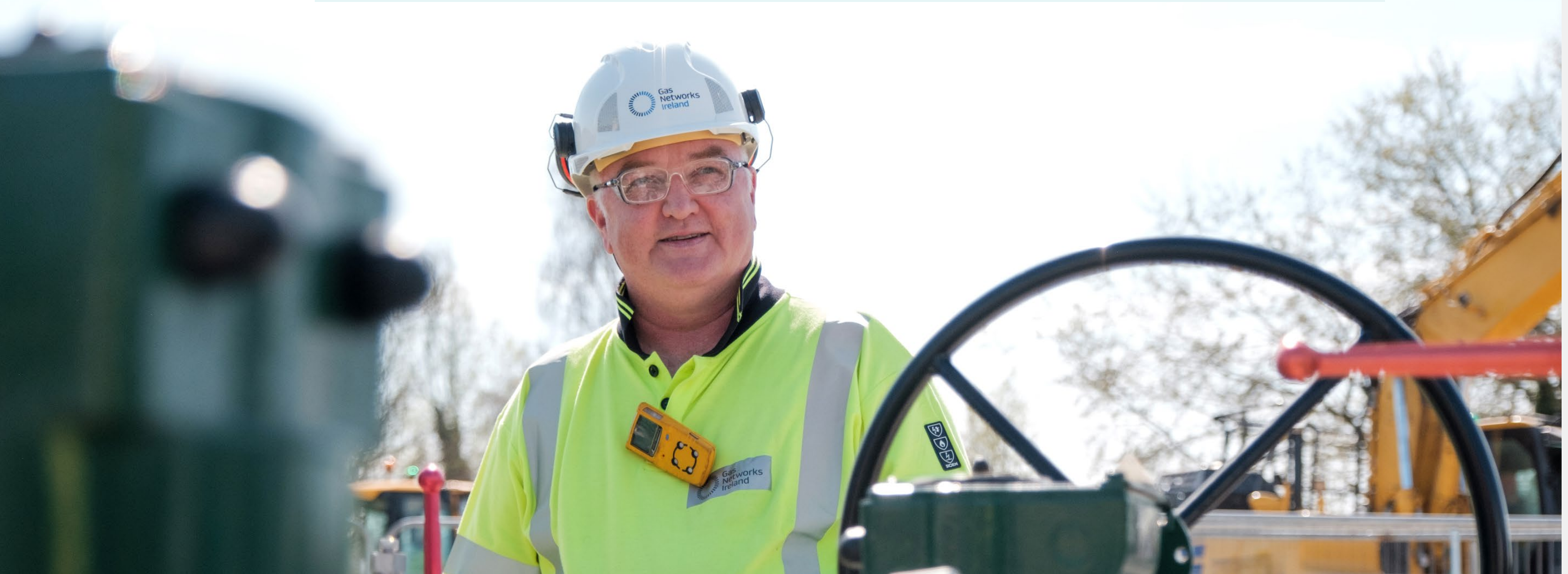


Introduction

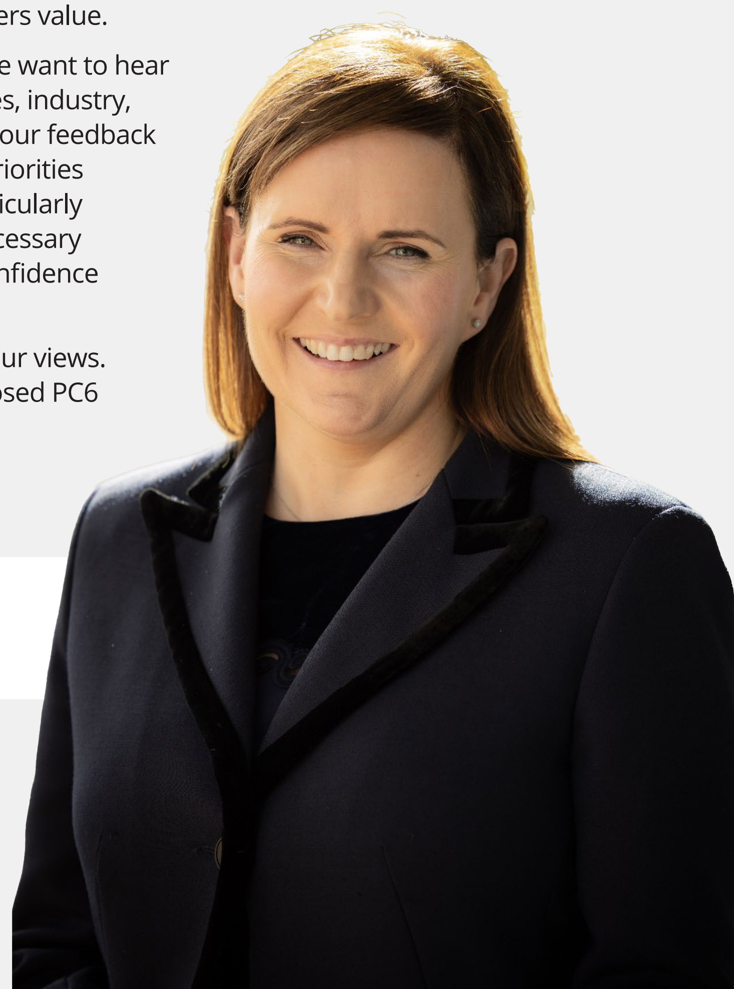
Ireland's energy system is at a critical juncture and is undergoing significant change. It is against this backdrop that Price Control 6 (PC6) is being developed; the decisions made during PC6 will shape how the gas network is operated, maintained and developed between October 2027 and September 2032, but will also influence future regulatory periods.

Gas Networks Ireland must keep the gas network safe, secure and reliable for customers today, while preparing for a lower-carbon future in which the role and use of gas will change. PC6 must balance security of supply, affordability, decarbonisation, resilience, customer value and intergenerational fairness, with a safe and resilient network as the foundation for customer confidence, energy security and the energy transition.

Our proposed PC6 Business Plan responds to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities' (CRU) three PC6 outcomes: Decarbonised Energy, Safe, secure and resilient network, and Empowered Customers. In practice, this means supporting Ireland's energy transition, maintaining a network that customers can rely on, and ensuring that proposed investment is efficient, justified and delivers value.

Before submitting the plan to the CRU, we want to hear from customers, communities, businesses, industry, policymakers and all interested parties. Your feedback will help us test whether our proposed priorities are clear, balanced and appropriate, particularly on the future role of the gas network, necessary investment, affordability, fairness and confidence in delivery.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. Your input will help strengthen the proposed PC6 Business Plan before it is finalised.



Edwina Nyhan
Director of Strategy and Regulation
Gas Networks Ireland

SECTION 1

Shaping the future of Ireland's gas network

1.1 About Gas Networks Ireland and our role in PC6

Gas Networks Ireland owns, operates, builds and maintains Ireland's gas network. We are a commercial semi-state company and regulated network utility, operating under two licences for the transmission and distribution networks and providing services 365 days a year to keep the network safe, reliable and available for customers.

Through our investment programme, supply chain and services, Gas Networks Ireland also supports wider economic activity across Ireland. Ireland's gas network is a strategic national asset, valued at approximately €3 billion and comprising almost 15,000 kilometres of transmission and distribution pipelines. It connects more than 720,000 customers, including over 28,000 businesses, and supports homes, industry, hospitals, schools, public services, commercial activity and power generation across the country. In 2025, natural gas generated 40% of Ireland's electricity, underscoring its continuing role in electricity security, system flexibility, and backup for weather-dependent renewable generation. Of the gas that flows through our network, approximately 60% is used to generate electricity, 30% by industrial and commercial customers, and 10% for domestic heating and cooking.

The network plays a critical role in Ireland's energy security and economic resilience. It helps ensure that energy is available when needed, supports industrial and commercial activity, and provides a secure energy source for sectors where electrification may be difficult, costly, or disruptive. As Ireland moves towards a net-zero energy system, the role of the gas network will change. Over time, the network will carry increasing volumes of renewable gases, such as biomethane and hydrogen, while continuing to provide resilience, flexibility and peak capacity for the wider energy system. This means the network must be maintained safely and efficiently today while also carefully planning for Ireland's future energy needs.

PC6 must be considered in the context of Gas Networks Ireland's wider strategy and national policy. Our corporate strategy is focused on a resilient network, the transition to net zero and being customer driven. These priorities are aligned with the CRU's three PC6 outcomes: Decarbonised Energy, Safe, secure and resilient network, and Empowered Customers. They also align with national policy drivers, including Ireland's climate targets, the Climate Action Plan, Project Ireland 2040, infrastructure delivery, energy security, economic resilience and Ireland's long-term climate objectives. This consultation is intended to test how these priorities should be reflected in our proposed PC6 Business Plan.

1.2 Public consultation on proposed PC6 Business Plan

Gas Networks Ireland is preparing its proposed PC6 Business Plan for submission to the CRU as part of the price control process. This plan will cover the period from **October 2027 to September 2032** and will set out how we propose to operate, maintain and develop Ireland's gas transmission and distribution networks during a period of significant change in the energy system.

A price control is the regulatory process through which the CRU reviews and decides the level of revenue that Gas Networks Ireland can recover from customers to operate, maintain and invest in the gas network. This process generally takes place every five years and sets the framework for how the network is funded, what investments are approved, and how costs are balanced against service quality, safety, resilience, affordability, and the long-term needs of the energy system.

Network charges are one part of a customer's overall energy bill. Gas Networks Ireland does not control wholesale gas prices or the full cost of energy, but we are responsible for managing the costs of operating, maintaining and investing in the gas network. Our focus is to keep these costs efficient, clearly explained and good value for customers, while continuing to provide the safe and reliable service people depend on. This is especially important during PC6, which is being developed amid geopolitical uncertainty, security risks, policy change and supply chain pressures.

1.3 Why we are consulting

This consultation explains how Gas Networks Ireland proposes to respond to the CRU's PC6 outcomes and objectives, and invites feedback before the proposed PC6 Business Plan is finalised. It focuses on the choices that need to be made during PC6, including how to maintain a safe and resilient network, support the transition to a low-carbon energy system, and protect customers by ensuring investment is efficient, justified and affordable.

The consultation also provides accessible information so customers and stakeholders can understand the choices being made and have confidence that their views will be considered alongside technical analysis, regulatory requirements and business planning evidence.

1.3.1 The importance of stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement is central to the PC6 process because decisions about the gas network affect customers, communities, businesses, industry, policymakers and the wider energy system. Given that the price control determination underpins how the network is operated, maintained and developed over the next five years, investment priorities should be informed by the needs, concerns and expectations of those who rely on the network today and those who may use it differently in the future.

Effective engagement helps Gas Networks Ireland test whether its proposed priorities are clear, balanced and proportionate. It also helps identify issues that may not be fully visible through technical analysis alone, including customer impacts, affordability concerns, local considerations, service expectations and the practical challenges faced by different sectors as the energy system changes.

This public consultation is therefore an important opportunity for stakeholders to help shape the proposed PC6 Business Plan, build public confidence in the choices being made, and support delivery of investment that is in customers' interests. The consultation forms part of a broader PC6 stakeholder engagement plan that includes targeted stakeholder interviews, focus groups, a national survey, and ongoing engagement with customers, industry, policymakers, regulators and other energy system stakeholders. The insights gathered through each of these channels will be considered alongside technical analysis, regulatory requirements and business planning evidence as we finalise our proposed PC6 Business Plan for submission to the CRU.

We are publishing this overview to invite feedback from customers, communities, businesses, industry, policymakers and all interested parties before we finalise our submission to the CRU.

1.4 Summary of CRU Strategy Paper

The CRU's PC6 Strategy Paper sets the direction for the next gas network price control period. In simple terms, it asks Gas Networks Ireland to continue running a safe, secure and reliable network while also preparing for a low-carbon energy system and keeping customer costs in focus.

The CRU has identified three broad outcomes for PC6:

- **Decarbonised energy:** Gas Networks Ireland must facilitate realisation of Ireland's decarbonisation ambitions, driving an environmentally sustainable, low carbon energy system.
- **Safe, Secure and Resilient Network:** Gas Networks Ireland must ensure safe, secure, resilient networks and supplies. Manage risk and system adequacy appropriately while complying with relevant standards, to provide services which customers can rely on.
- **Empowered Customers:** Gas Networks Ireland must deliver high quality and reliable services to customers, ensuring their voice is heard and reflected in the work they do, and that the cost of the transition is minimised.

The CRU has also set four objectives for PC6: enabling the efficient transition to a low-carbon energy system; enhancing network efficiency while maintaining the security and resilience of gas supply; improving quality of service and protections for current and future consumers; and preparing for a future of declining gas demand. Together, these outcomes and objectives provide the framework for Gas Networks Ireland's proposed PC6 Business Plan.

The CRU also asks Gas Networks Ireland to plan carefully for uncertainty. This includes preparing for a future in which overall gas use may fall, while the network will still be needed during peak demand and for energy security. Where the future is uncertain, Gas Networks Ireland must focus on investments that are needed now, protect safety and reliability, and keep future options open.

1.5 Key strategic outlook and external environment

PC6 is being developed in a challenging and changing external environment. Ireland must continue to decarbonise its energy system while maintaining secure, reliable and affordable energy for homes, businesses, industry and power generation. Geopolitical uncertainty, security risks, supply chain pressures and infrastructure delivery challenges all affect how the network should be planned and funded.

The CRU's PC6 Strategy Paper recognises that annual gas demand is expected to decline over the longer term, but that peak gas demand, security of supply, import reliance and renewable gases will remain important during PC6. The value of the gas network should therefore be considered not only by annual gas volumes, but also by the flexibility, resilience and peak capacity it provides to the wider energy system.

For Gas Networks Ireland, this points to an adaptive and evidence-led investment approach. PC6 decisions must protect the safety, reliability and resilience of the network today, while keeping future options open as policy, technology, customer needs, and demand patterns evolve.

1.6 Key challenges for PC6

The strategic outlook creates a number of practical challenges for PC6. The core task is to make timely and proportionate investment decisions that maintain the network safely and reliably today, while preparing for changes in gas demand, renewable gases, customer needs and the wider energy system.

Key challenges include:

- maintaining safety, reliability and resilience across a national network that many homes, businesses and essential services rely on;
- planning for a future where annual gas use in the electricity sector declines, as increasing levels of renewables are available on the electricity system, but the gas network will still be needed at peak times and during periods of low renewable electricity output;
- supporting Ireland's energy security while the country remains dependent on imported gas and while renewable gas emerges;
- enabling renewable gases, particularly biomethane in the near term, while recognising uncertainty around the future timing, cost and scale of hydrogen;
- balancing necessary investment with affordability for customers;
- deciding which investments are needed now, which can be deferred, and which should depend on future policy, technology or market developments.

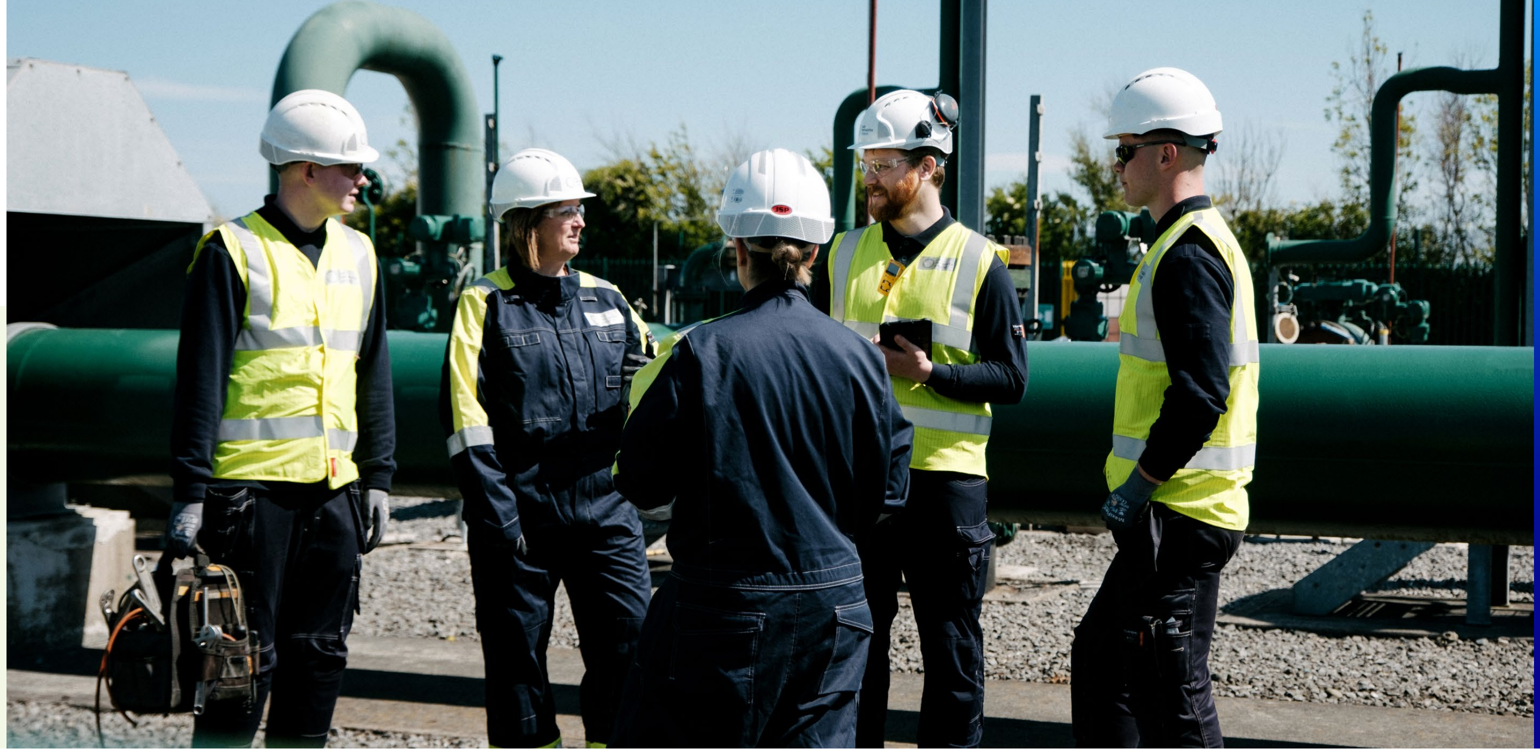
1.7 The future role of the gas network

The gas network is expected to continue playing an important role in Ireland's energy system during PC6 and beyond, even as the longer-term role of gas changes. It will continue to support power generation, industry and heating, including during periods of peak demand and when renewable electricity output is low. Over time, the value of the network may be linked less to annual throughput alone and more to the peak capacity, flexibility and resilience it provides when the wider energy system needs it most.

Beyond PC6, the network can provide strategic value by supporting renewable gases such as biomethane and, over time, potentially hydrogen, while serving customers and sectors where electrification may be difficult, costly or disruptive. PC6 investment decisions should therefore preserve optionality: protecting today's network, avoiding unnecessary investment and enabling the network to adapt as policy, technology and demand evolve.

SECTION 2

Our proposed PC6 priorities



Gas Networks Ireland's proposed PC6 Business Plan focuses on delivering a safe, secure, efficient, and future-ready gas network.

Our five key priorities supports the delivery of the CRU's three PC6 outcomes: Safe, secure and resilient network, Decarbonised Energy and Empowered Customers.

Together, these priorities aim to protect safety and reliability, support the transition to a low-carbon energy system, maintain affordability and customer value, and ensure investment decisions remain robust under uncertainty. This means prioritising low- and no-regret investments, applying proportionate and evidence-led justification, working with industry to develop a whole-system view, using data to improve decision-making, and actively managing asset risk as demand patterns change.

Our proposed capital programme reflects this balanced approach: prioritising investment in a resilient network, taking a measured approach to decarbonisation as policy, market and technology pathways develop, and applying a customer lens through improvements in customer experience, data and innovation to support effective and efficient investment.

Gas Networks Ireland proposed priority	Relevant CRU PC6 outcome	Related consultation question(s)
Maintaining a safe, secure and resilient network	Safe, secure and resilient network	**Q3:** support for maintaining a safe, secure and resilient gas network, including areas stakeholders believe should be prioritised.
Supporting the transition to a low-carbon energy system	Decarbonised energy	**Q4:** support for low-carbon and renewable gases, including biomethane in the near term, hydrogen readiness over time and priority actions for PC6.
Delivering value and affordability for customers	Empowered customers	**Q5**: views on affordability, customer value, transparency, service quality and how Gas Networks Ireland can better support customers during change.
Planning for uncertainty and the future use of the network	All outcomes	**Q1 and Q2:** views on the changing energy environment, the future role of the gas network, key challenges, future gas demand, peak demand and network use.
Building the capabilities needed to deliver	All outcomes	**Q6**: other priorities, benefits or outputs to consider as the proposed PC6 Business Plan is finalised, including delivery capability, innovation, data, reporting and stakeholder engagement.

The following sections explain each proposed priority in more detail and set out the areas where stakeholder views will be particularly important.

2.1 Maintaining a safe, secure and resilient network

Safety, security of supply and resilience are core obligations for Gas Networks Ireland as the operator of critical national infrastructure. During PC6, we propose continuing to invest in the systems, people, processes, and assets needed to keep the network safe, reliable, and available for customers, while ensuring expenditure is efficient, justified, and in customers' interests. This priority directly supports the CRU's outcome of a safe, secure and resilient network and gives customers confidence that essential infrastructure will continue to perform when it is needed most. For customers, this means maintaining a network that operates safely and reliably every day, while remaining prepared for low-probability but high-impact events such as severe weather, cyber incidents, infrastructure failures, or disruptions to energy supply. It means ensuring that critical network assets are maintained, monitored, and replaced before their condition compromises safety or reliability, and that the right people, systems, and emergency arrangements are in place to respond to incidents. Many of these investments are proactive, designed to address asset condition, ageing infrastructure, operational vulnerabilities, and emerging threats before they lead to safety incidents, service disruptions, or higher customer costs.

This reflects a long-standing asset management approach focused on maintaining risk at appropriate levels, intervening before equipment failure occurs and ensuring critical infrastructure continues to operate safely and reliably over the long term. In practice, this includes maintaining and upgrading critical transmission and distribution assets, replacing ageing equipment before failure occurs, protecting operational technology and communications systems from cyber threats, strengthening security at critical infrastructure sites and ensuring emergency response capability is available when required. This can include intervention in assets where age, condition, or obsolescence pose increasing risks; maintaining infrastructure that controls gas pressure and flow across the network; upgrading equipment critical to the security of supply; and ensuring key operational and control systems remain available and protected. It also includes maintaining the capability to respond rapidly to gas emergencies, supporting the safe operation of critical network installations, and ensuring the network can continue to operate safely as demand and supply patterns evolve.

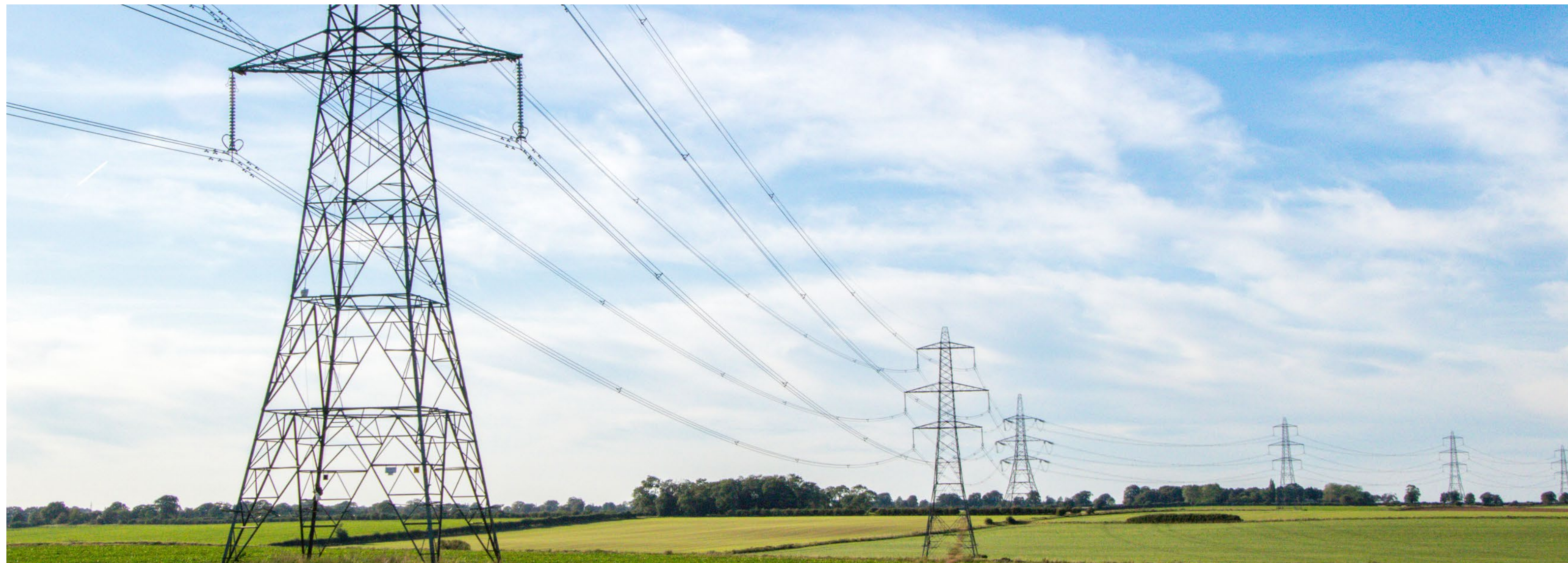
These investments are underpinned by Gas Networks Ireland's enterprise resilience framework, which provides a structured approach to preparing for, responding to and recovering from disruption, while safeguarding the delivery of essential services. At Gas Networks Ireland, resilience is the ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruption, safeguarding the delivery of essential services and protecting people, the community, our assets, and the environment. The investments outlined above help reduce the risk of service disruption, support continuity of supply and maintain confidence in the infrastructure on which homes, businesses and the wider energy system depend. Protecting essential services is therefore central to Gas Networks Ireland's resilience framework. Our approach also recognises that resilience depends on more than physical assets.

During PC6, Gas Networks Ireland will continue to strengthen the governance, skills, systems, supplier arrangements and organisational capabilities needed to protect essential services. Resilience arrangements will be regularly exercised, monitored and assured, with lessons from incidents, testing and audits used to support continuous improvement. Investment proposals will be risk-based, proportionate, deliverable and supported by clear evidence, taking account of interdependencies across suppliers, technology providers, public bodies and the wider national infrastructure system. Resilience is becoming increasingly important as Ireland's energy system evolves.

Security of supply is also a key national priority. The Government has approved the development of a State-led Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER), and Gas Networks Ireland will support key actions in this area. The SGER will be progressed in parallel with PC6 as a distinct national security-of-supply initiative. While it sits outside the core PC6 investment proposals, it complements the wider resilience approach by providing an additional safeguard against a significant gas supply disruption.

Our proposed focus during PC6 includes:

- maintaining the safety and integrity of the transmission and distribution networks;
- continuing to invest in public safety campaigns focused on informing the public on what to do if you smell gas, using a registered gas installer, carbon monoxide safety and carbon monoxide awareness;
- supporting new and existing customer connections which are efficient, justified and aligned with safety, network capacity and regulatory requirements;
- investing in targeted maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of network assets where condition, age, obsolescence or risk indicate intervention is required to maintain safety, reliability and continuity of supply, including critical infrastructure that supports the safe transportation and delivery of gas across the network;
- strengthening emergency response capability, cyber resilience, physical protection of critical infrastructure and business continuity arrangements including essential suppliers, contractors and third-party dependencies and strenghtening third-party resilience to ensure essential services can be maintained and restored following disruption;
- supporting the delivery of the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve, subject to Government and regulatory decisions;
- applying a consistent resilience framework to demonstrate how investments improve the network's ability to prepare for, withstand, respond to and recover from disruption, while supporting security of supply, operational assurance and Critical Entity readiness;
- planning for peak demand, changing gas flow patterns and evolving energy system requirements to ensure the network can continue to meet periods of high demand and support electricity security when renewable generation output is low;
- maintaining and enhancing the operational systems, monitoring capability and critical infrastructure needed to safely operate the network, detect emerging risks and respond effectively to network incidents and external threats; and
- ensuring that all safety, resilience and security of supply investment delivers clear customer and system benefits, remains proportionate to the risks being addressed and represents value for money for customers.



2.2 Supporting the transition to a low-carbon energy system

The gas network has an important role in supporting Ireland's transition to a low-carbon energy system. PC6 investment will be guided by Ireland's statutory climate framework, established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended in 2021, carbon budgets, sectoral emissions ceilings and the Government's Climate Action Plan, together with relevant EU energy and climate obligations. Within this framework, Gas Networks Ireland will focus on enabling renewable gases, supporting sectors that are harder to electrify, maintaining system resilience and reducing operational emissions where this is efficient, proportionate and in customers' interests.

This priority supports the CRU's Decarbonised Energy outcome and reflects the national direction towards a climate-neutral economy by 2050 and substantial emissions reductions by 2030. Our approach will be evidence-based and flexible, so that investment can be progressed where the policy mandate, regulatory approval, timing, need and customer benefit are clear. Where future requirements remain uncertain, a reopener or adaptive regulatory mechanism may be more appropriate than fixing investment at the start of PC6.

Biomethane is expected to be the main near-term renewable gas focus for PC6. The National Biomethane Strategy sets out the Government's ambition to support delivery of up to 5.7 TWh of indigenously produced biomethane by 2030, while the proposed Renewable Heat Obligation is intended to create demand for renewable heat and support increased use of renewable fuels. Because biomethane can be injected into the existing gas network, it can help decarbonise gas use without major changes to customer equipment. During PC6, our objective is to enable efficient connections and network capability to support increased volumes of renewable gas, in line with climate legislation, CRU connection policy, and emerging renewable heat requirement.

As production grows, reverse compression may be needed in some areas. This would allow surplus biomethane in local distribution networks to be compressed and moved to the transmission network for use by customers elsewhere. Any investment would need clear evidence of need, regulatory approval and alignment with the CRU's connection and cost recovery framework.

Hydrogen remains a longer-term opportunity. During PC6, the focus is expected to be on supporting national policy via readiness, evidence gathering and understanding its potential future role, rather than large-scale conversion. This will be informed by the National Hydrogen Strategy, Irish policy development and EU legislation on decarbonised gas markets, hydrogen infrastructure and integrated energy planning.

Whole-system planning will also be important. Gas Networks Ireland expects to work with the CRU, Government, EirGrid, SEAI, ESB Networks, and other stakeholders to better understand future gas demand, renewable gas development, electricity system needs, network transition options, and the interaction among gas, electricity, hydrogen, and other energy vectors. This work will be informed by research and modeling including Network Development Plan, Core Flexibility Report, Supplemental Flexibility Report, CRU decisions and relevant EU planning requirements.

Gas Networks Ireland will also continue to reduce emissions from its own operations, supporting statutory climate objectives and relevant national and EU methane, energy efficiency and emissions requirements. This includes methane reduction, energy management, lower-carbon operational fuel options and compressor station efficiency. Planned investment in the compressor stations in Scotland is expected to reduce emissions by lowering fuel use, while maintaining reliable gas flows to Ireland and supporting security of supply during the transition.

Our proposed focus during PC6 includes:

- facilitating biomethane connections and renewable gas infrastructure in line with national biomethane policy, CRU connection policy and emerging Renewable Heat Obligation requirements;
- assessing reverse compression and local reinforcement where needed to support biomethane growth, subject to regulatory approval, cost recovery arrangements and customer benefit;
- preparing for potential hydrogen blending and future hydrogen requirements, informed by Irish policy and EU gas, hydrogen and infrastructure legislation;
- working with Government, the CRU, EirGrid, SEAI, ESB Networks and other stakeholders on whole-system planning across gas, electricity, hydrogen and renewable gases;
- supporting efficient decarbonisation options for heat, industry and power generation where aligned with statutory climate objectives, sectoral emissions ceilings and least-cost transition principles;
- reducing emissions from our own operations, including methane reduction, energy management and compressor station efficiency;
- maintaining flexibility so the network can adapt as legislation, policy, technology, market arrangements and demand evolve.

2.3 Delivering value and affordability for customers

Delivering value for money and affordability are central concerns for Gas Networks Ireland, reflecting the priorities of our customers and the CRU. While Gas Networks Ireland does not control wholesale gas prices or the full customer bill, we do control how efficiently we operate and how clearly we justify the network expenditure recovered through network charges.

Gas Networks Ireland's approach to delivering value and affordability is centred on providing high-quality services efficiently, while ensuring that network charges are justified, proportionate and linked to clear customer benefits.

During PC6, we will continue to improve the services that customers rely on day-to-day. This includes delivering efficient connection services, providing responsive support when customers contact us, improving access to information and services through digital channels, and making it easier for customers to interact with Gas Networks Ireland. We will also continue to strengthen our understanding of affordability pressures, vulnerability and changing customer needs to help inform customer protections and support measures.

We will continue to seek opportunities to simplify customer processes, improve service responsiveness and increase productivity and efficiency across the organisation. The objective is to improve customer outcomes, maintain high-quality service standards and ensure customers continue to receive value for money from the services provided by Gas Networks Ireland.

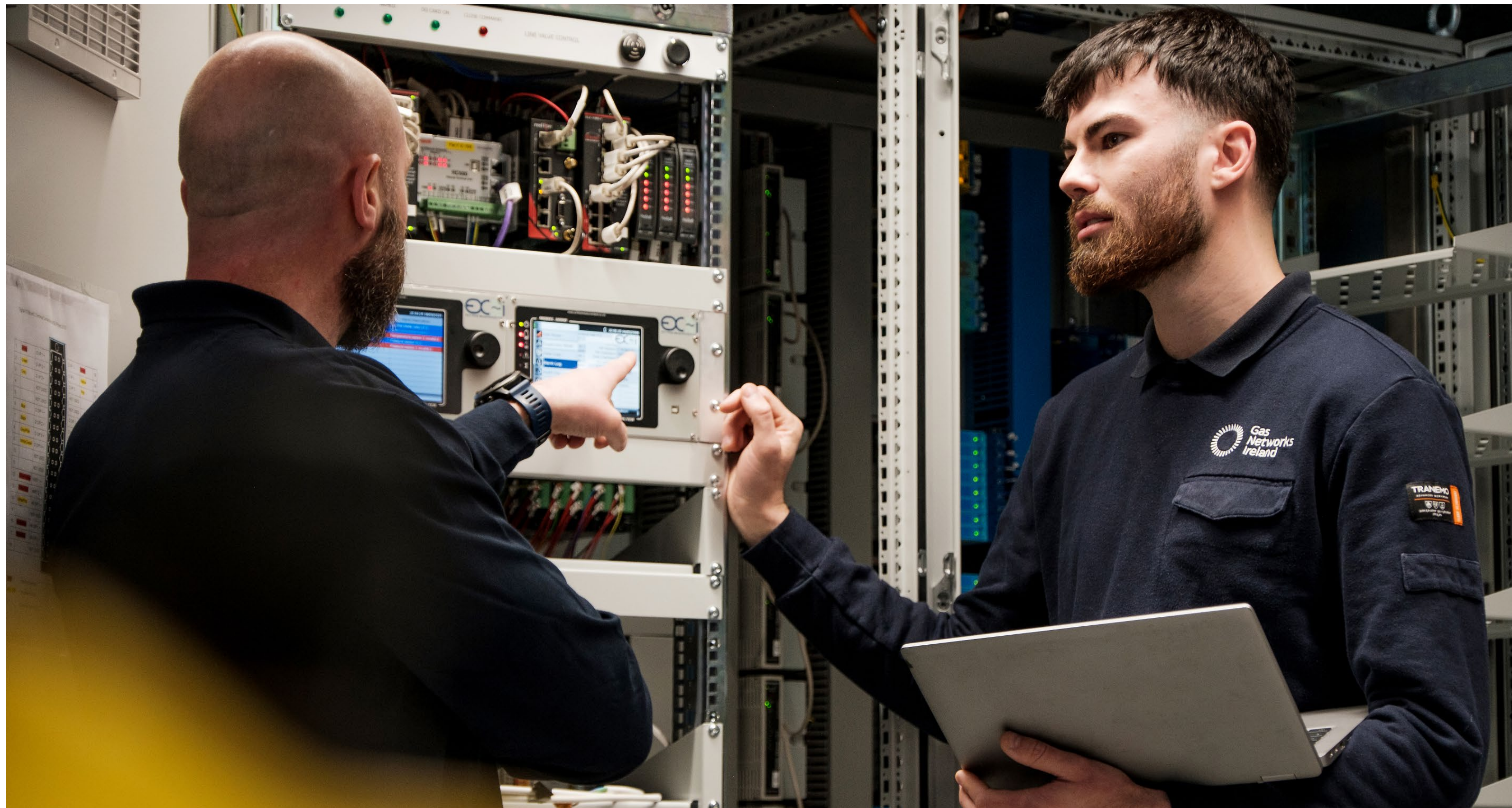
The CRU has highlighted that PC6 must protect consumers by ensuring that investment is efficient, necessary and proportionate. This is particularly important during the energy transition, where future gas demand, network use and the customer base may change over time. PC6 decisions must therefore consider both current and future customers, including how costs and benefits are fairly shared over time.

For Gas Networks Ireland, this means taking a prudent, evidence-based approach to investment, ensuring expenditure is appropriately timed, proportionate to need, and supported by clear customer benefits. It also means making effective use of existing assets where possible, pursuing low-regret investment choices where uncertainty exists and avoiding unnecessary expenditure that could place additional pressure on customer bills.

As the energy system evolves, balancing affordability today with long-term value for future customers will become increasingly important. During PC6, we will work with the CRU and stakeholders to consider how investment costs are best recovered over time, ensuring tariffs remain fair, transparent and aligned with customer interests.

Our proposed focus during PC6 includes:

- improving customer experience through efficient connection services, responsive customer support, accessible communications and continued enhancement of digital services.
- maintaining quality of service, reliability, responsiveness and appropriate protections for current and future consumers.
- applying strong investment appraisal and cost-benefit assessment to all proposals;
- demonstrating the need, timing, efficiency and customer benefit of proposed expenditure;
- considering network utilisation, asset lives, long-term asset value and future customer value when assessing new or replacement investment;
- reviewing how investment decisions affect current and future customers;
- supporting transparent tariff and cost recovery discussions with the CRU;
- considering practical measures that may help manage affordability pressures, including tariff design, capacity products and better evidence on customer vulnerability;
- improving understanding of customer needs, affordability pressures and vulnerability to support better customer protections and more informed decision-making;
- seeking operational efficiencies and using innovation and data to reduce costs.



2.4 Planning for uncertainty and the future use of the network

The future role of gas is uncertain. Different transition pathways could lead to different outcomes for annual gas demand, peak demand, renewable gas production and network use. PC6 planning will therefore test proposed investments against a range of plausible demand, policy and technology scenarios.

Understanding future peak demand will be just as important as understanding annual gas demand. Even if overall gas use declines over time, the network will still be needed to meet short periods of high demand, support electricity generation and provide resilience when other parts of the energy system are under pressure. For PC6, our approach must therefore be adaptive, evidence-led and focused on maintaining statutory and licence obligations while preserving optionality for the future. The network's value should be assessed not only by annual gas use, but also by the peak capacity, flexibility, resilience and electricity security support it provides.

This means avoiding decisions that would unnecessarily limit future network options, while also avoiding investment in uncertain future requirements before there is sufficient evidence or policy clarity. This priority supports all three CRU outcomes by ensuring that investment decisions remain robust under uncertainty, maintain a safe, secure and resilient network, support decarbonised energy pathways, and protect customers from unnecessary costs.

Our proposed focus during PC6 includes:

- adopting a no-regrets and adaptive investment approach;
- maintaining safety, resilience and asset maintenance as core priorities;
- developing evidence on future gas demand, peak demand and network utilisation;
- assessing options for repurposing, decommissioning or deferring investment where appropriate;
- preparing long-term network transition analysis;
- using scenario planning to test investment proposals; and
- ensuring that new investments remain proportionate and justified under a range of plausible futures.

2.5 Building the capabilities needed to deliver

Delivering the proposed PC6 Business Plan will require the right people, systems, data, governance, resourcing, financing and contractor capability. These capabilities are essential for operating the network safely and efficiently, managing a more complex energy system, and giving customers, stakeholders and the CRU confidence that Gas Networks Ireland can deliver on its commitments.

As the energy transition progresses, network planning, operations, stakeholder engagement, regulatory reporting and project delivery will become more complex. Investment in digital systems, data, analytics and innovation will help Gas Networks Ireland to improve decision making evidence, asset management and forecasting, support customer service, and demonstrate performance more clearly to the CRU and stakeholders.

Delivery will also depend on securing sufficient skilled resources, sustainable financing and a capable contractor market. Gas Networks Ireland will need to plan workforce requirements, maintain access to funding and work with its supply chain to ensure that specialist skills and delivery capacity are available when needed. This will help manage delivery risk, support efficient investment and keep the PC6 programme on schedule.

Strong programme governance will also be important. Clear milestones, transparent reporting, disciplined engagement and effective delivery oversight will help ensure that PC6 is delivered efficiently, accountably and in a way that provides confidence to customers, stakeholders and the CRU. This priority supports all three CRU outcomes by strengthening the capability, evidence and transparency needed to deliver a safe, secure and resilient network, support decarbonised energy, and protect and empower customers.

Our proposed focus during PC6 includes:

- developing the workforce capability needed for a changing energy system;
- investing in digital systems, data and analytics to support better planning, delivery and decision-making;
- improving asset information, forecasting and network modelling;
- Testing, exercising, operational assurance and continuous improvement to ensure resilience is actively monitored.
- strengthening innovation and collaboration with other network operators and energy system stakeholders;
- enhancing regulatory reporting, transparency and delivery accountability, including timely, complete and clear evidence on delivery, expenditure, customer outcomes and benefits;
- supporting high-quality stakeholder engagement; and
- ensuring that necessary investment can be funded efficiently and sustainably.

2.6 Benefits for customers and Ireland

The proposed PC6 investments matter because they support the safe, secure and reliable operation of a critical national network at a time of major energy system change.

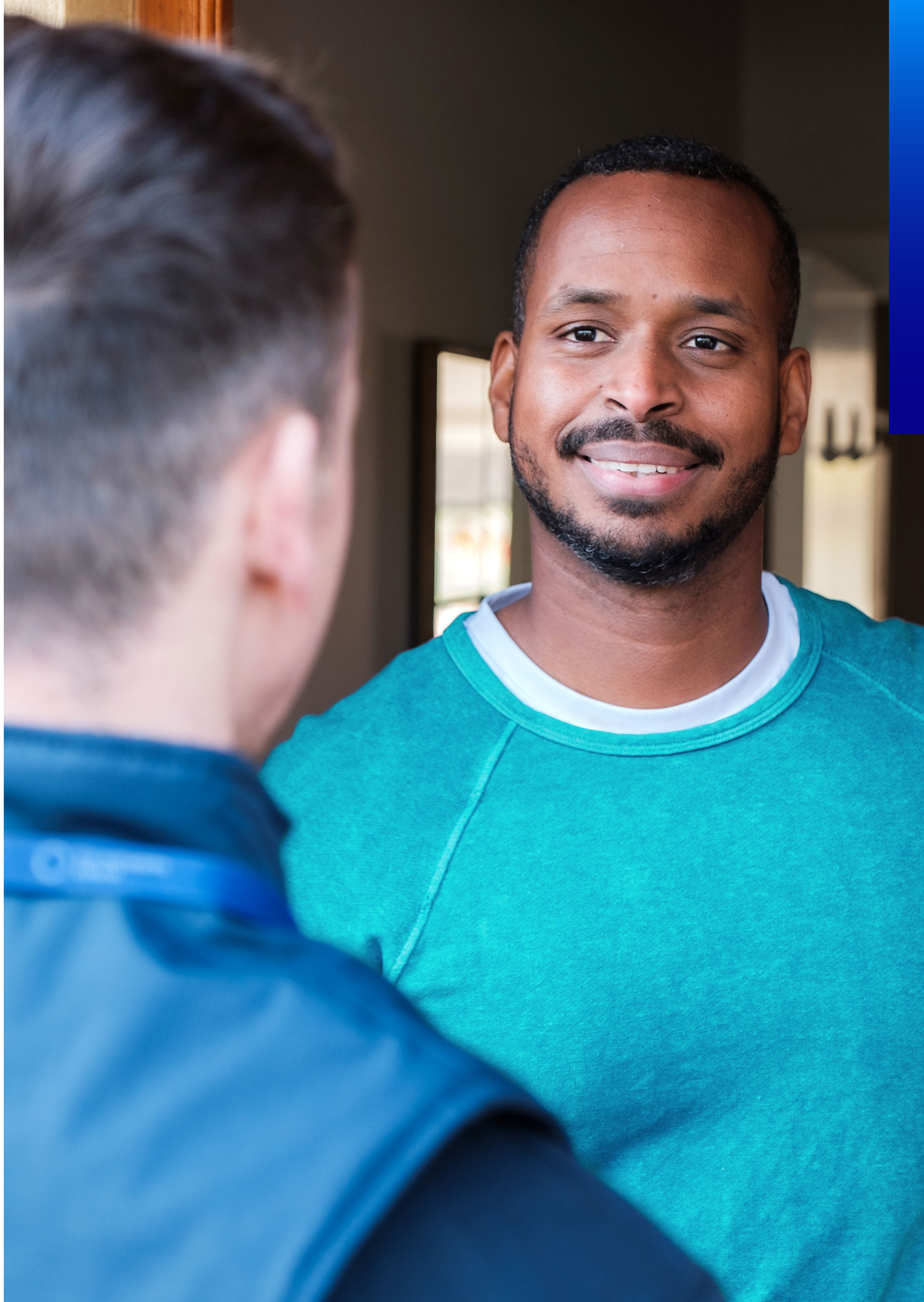
If planned and delivered well, they will help protect security of supply, keep energy available at times of peak demand, support homes, businesses, industry and power generation, enable renewable gases and provide flexibility to the wider energy system.

They will also support Ireland's wider economic resilience and energy transition by helping ensure that critical infrastructure remains safe, adaptable and ready for future energy needs. The challenge is to deliver these benefits efficiently, affordably and with clear justification, making essential investment at the right time while avoiding unnecessary costs.

The expected benefits include:

- a safe, reliable and resilient gas network that continues to support homes, businesses, industry and power generation;
- stronger security of supply and greater resilience during periods of peak demand or disruption;
- support for the connection of increasing volumes of renewable gases including biomethane in the near term and potential hydrogen readiness over time;
- better evidence and planning for future network use, including peak demand, flexibility and long-term transition pathways;
- continued focus on affordability, efficient investment and fair treatment of current and future customers;
- support for Ireland's wider climate, economic and infrastructure objectives; and
- support for growth and development in communities across Ireland.

Through this consultation, we are seeking views on whether these are the right benefits to focus on, whether they are explained clearly, and whether there are other customer, community or national benefits that should be considered before the proposed PC6 Business Plan is finalised.



SECTION 3

Consultation questions & how to respond

3.1 Consultation questions

The questions below are intended to help structure feedback on the proposed PC6 Business Plan.

You do not need to answer every question; please respond to the questions most relevant to you or provide general comments if you prefer.

1 **Do you agree with how we have described the changing energy environment and the future role of the gas network?** What factors do you think should shape gas network investment during PC6?

2. **Are the main challenges facing the gas network clearly explained, including security of supply, affordability, peak demand and future network use?** Are there other challenges we should consider?

3. **Do you support our proposed focus on maintaining a safe, secure and resilient gas network?** Please tell us why, and whether there are particular areas we should prioritise.

4. **Do you agree with our proposed approach to supporting low-carbon and renewable gases, including biomethane in the near term and hydrogen readiness over time?** Are there specific actions you think should be prioritised during PC6?

5. **Do you agree with our proposed focus on affordability, customer value, transparency and service quality during PC6?** How can Gas Networks Ireland better support customers during this period of change?

6. **Are there any other priorities, benefits or outputs that Gas Networks Ireland should consider as we finalise the proposed PC6 Business Plan?** Please share any further thoughts or recommendations.

3.2 How to respond

This consultation is your opportunity to share views on the proposed PC6 Business Plan and help shape the future of the gas network. You can answer all of the questions, respond only to those most relevant to you, or send general comments.

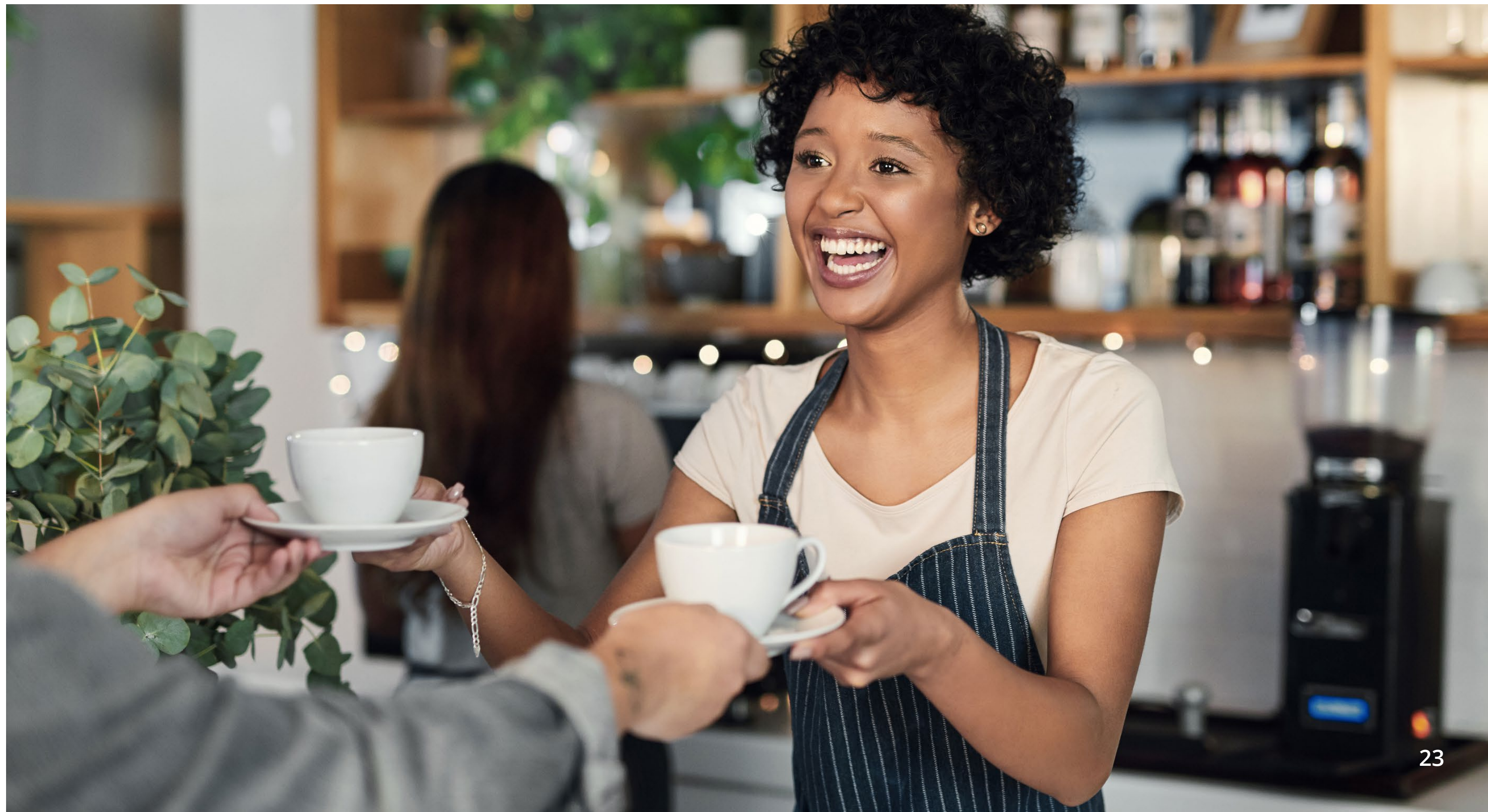
You do not need technical knowledge to take part. Where possible, please include reasons for your views, supporting evidence or practical examples. We will not be able to respond individually to every comment; however, all feedback will be reviewed and considered as Gas Networks Ireland finalises its proposed PC6 Business Plan for submission to the CRU.

Your feedback will help us test whether the proposed plan is clear, balanced and complete. It will be reviewed alongside our wider stakeholder engagement, technical analysis and regulatory requirements before the final proposed plan is submitted to the CRU.

Please email your response to: **stakeholder@gasnetworks.ie**

The closing date for responses is **30 September 2026**

- Please indicate whether you are responding as an individual, organisation, business, community group or other stakeholder.
- Please clearly mark any information you consider confidential. Non-confidential responses may be summarised or referenced in our stakeholder engagement reporting.



The main contact details for
Gas Networks Ireland are:

General Enquiries
1800 464 464

Lines open Monday to Friday
8am – 8pm
and Saturday 9am – 5.30pm

24 Hour Emergency Service
1800 20 50 50

networksinfo@gasnetworks.ie

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gasnetworks.ie

PC6BPlan_08/26