Stuart McCaul
Chairman
An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland
5 Foster Place, College Green, Dublin, D02 V0P9

Ms. Oonagh Buckley
Secretary General
Dept of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)

Mr. Brendan Gleeson,
Secretary General, Dept. Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM)

20th December 2023

Dear Ms. Buckley and Mr. Gleeson,

I write to express An Taisce's strong concerns regarding the apparent failure of DAFM and DECC to include the Environmental Pillar, including An Taisce and other environmental NGOs, in the stakeholder consultation in development of the National Biomethane Strategy (NBS). This appears to be a major oversight on behalf of both departments given the substantial potential environmental and climate action issues raised by the NBS.

An Taisce understands that the NBS is due to go to Cabinet for government approval very soon without any social partnership and stakeholder engagement with the Environmental Pillar or eNGOs. Industry experts, developers, gas users, and State bodies have been included, but voices liable to be critical seem to have been excluded. Such bias seriously risks the appearance of regulatory capture of NBS development by vested interests.

On behalf of An Taisce, I urge you to share the outputs from the stakeholder consultation to date and allow sufficient time in the new year for the Environmental Pillar to provide their inputs before the NBS proceeds to Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart McCaul
Chair,
An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland
chair@antaisce.org
www.antaisce.org

An Taisce is a membership-based charity | Join us at www.antaisce.org/membership

An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland | *Protecting Ireland's heritage, safeguarding its future*

Tailors' Hall, Back Lane, Dublin, D08 X2A3, Ireland | www.antaisce.org | +353 1 707 7076 | info@antaisce.org

Company Limited by Guarantee no. 12469 | Charity CHY4741 | Charity Regulator no. 20006358 | EU Transparency Register no. 473905437651-60

Directors: Stuart McCaul (Chair),
Trish O'Connell (Vice Chair), John Conroy (Treasurer), Rónán O'Brien, Finbarr Murray