



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Direction
CD-020492-25
ABP-320672-24

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 15/08/2025.

The Commission decided to refuse permission, generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations.

Planning

Commissioner:


Mick Long

Date: 15/08/2025

DRAFT WORDING FOR ORDER

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the nature and characteristics of the site where windfarm development is "not normally permitted", the uncertainty relating to peat stability particularly in areas where the risk level is high, the absence of an assessment of the impact on the hydrological and hydrogeological regime, the uncertainty relating to habitats and their importance and the uncertainty as to the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures in dealing with peat stability and impact on water quality and water flows, the Commission is not satisfied that the development will not have an adverse effects on surface water, groundwater, upland blanket bog habitat and the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sensitive Area, Bungosteen Catchment. The proposed development is therefore considered to be contrary to the requirements of Policy WE-P-3, Objective WW-O-1, Policy WW-P-2, Policy BIO-P-1 and BIO-P-3 of

the County Donegal Development Plan 2024-2030 and therefore, would not accord with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Commission noted the concerns of the Inspector of the impact of the proposed development on local waterbodies but given the substantive nature of the above reason for refusal did not pursue this matter further. The commission also noted that an alternative haul route has been permitted to serve the windfarm development.