

Eleanor O Leary.

Clearagh,

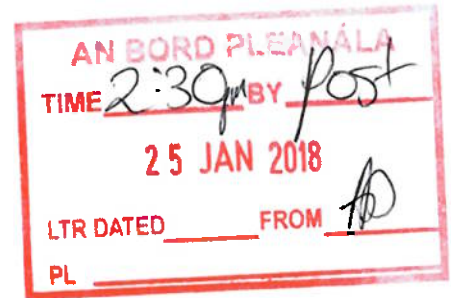
Lissarda

County Cork.

22nd January, 2018.

An Bord Pleanála,
64, Marlborough Street,
Dublin, 1.

RE: Planning Ref. No.PL04.248153 (245824)



Dear Sir/Madam,

You wrote on 9th January 2018 inviting submissions or observations to Barna Wind Energy Ltd.'s response to third party submissions made to An Bord Pleanála, November 2017.

I wish to make the following observations in relation to their response to my original concerns relating to noise, telecommunications, revised wind energy guidelines and property valuation.

Noise

.The report recognises that there will be an increase in noise levels should the proposed wind farm proceed (section 3.2). It goes on to state that a review was carried out of the **predictions** of operational noise from the existing wind-farm at Garraneragh. I would like to know if there were any actual calculations of the noise levels from this existing wind farm or if an effort was made to get such readings over a sustained period of time as opposed to a prediction of operational noise. If such a study was undertaken it would be more reassuring. Living in close proximity to this existing wind farm I observe that at certain times of the year and during certain weather conditions the noise levels are considerable. I am concerned that if another wind farm was to be constructed in the area the noise levels would increase significantly and be detrimental to the physical and mental welfare of my family.

. In my last letter of observation I drew attention to my concerns for my youngest daughter who has a hearing impairment and wears a hearing aid. I was concerned that the inevitable increased level of noise when combined with the noise from the existing wind farm and which the report acknowledges will occur, would adversely affect her because background

noise is a serious issue for her. This concern was not addressed by the Barna Wind Energy Ltd. report.

Revised wind energy regulations

. It is my understanding that current planning regulations in relation to noise levels are different to what they were when planning was originally granted by Cork County Council to Barna Wind Energy Ltd. for a wind farm in this area. An Bord Pleanála should, in my opinion, take these revised regulations into consideration when adjudicating on this appeal. The report by Barna Wind Energy Ltd. refers to a number of UK studies in relation to Wind Farms to support its case for a wind farm in our area. However, it does not mention that the ruling conservative government in the UK is opposed to further onshore wind turbines and has banned subsidised onshore wind farms. (www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics/33227489) The UK government currently favours offshore wind turbine development.

Telecommunications

.The report acknowledges that there will most likely be signal obstruction for telecommunications in the immediate vicinity of the proposed turbines. (section 3.3) A baseline survey and a promise of remedial action when problems arise in the area is no reassurance given the impact likely in the area.

Property valuations

. The report by Barna Wind Energy Ltd. drew on a study from the UK in relation to residential property valuations and wind farms. (section 3.8) The UK report used found little negative effect on property prices. However, the report cited was carried out on property valuations within a 5km radius of just seven wind farms and there was one wind farm which did have a negative impact on property valuation in its area. The reason for this was not given in the report and could be relevant. The proposed wind farm development will be within a 1 km radius of our house and others in the area. Was any effort made to conduct a study in Ireland on existing wind farms and the effects on property valuations within a 1km radius by Barna Wind Energy Ltd? The UK study cited is not therefore, in my opinion, enough of a basis on which to conclude that property valuations in the area will not be adversely affected by the proposed wind farm.

I strongly request that An Bord Pleanála refuses permission for this application.

Please advise me of An Bord Pleanála's decision.

Yours Sincerely,

Eleanor O Leary.

Eleanor O'Leary

