

An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Memorandum

**ABP-316025-23**

---

To: Board

From: Tomás Bradley, Senior Planning Inspector

Re: Oral Hearing Request

Date: 25th October 2023

---

### 1.0 Introduction

Under Section 37E of the Planning and Development 2000, as amended an application was made to An Bord Pleanála for approval of a wind energy development including 19 turbines and all associated works by Cloghercor Wind Farm Limited (the applicant) in the townlands of Clogherachullion, Cloghercor, Derryloaghan, Aghayeevoge, Cashelreagh Glebe, Darney, Drumard, and Drumnacross Co. Donegal.

### 2.0 Submissions

In total there are no. 89 observations on the file. Out of these parties, no. 3 third party observers specifically requested An Bord Pleanála to hold an oral hearing, namely:

- Graffy Environmental Group
- Gweebarra Conservation Group
- Shaun Melley

Briefly, the issues raised include the following:

- The proposed development is contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development the area including the Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024. It is also conflicting with European and national legislation.

- There is specific concern for several species including birds, aquatic and other mammals which are protected under legislation. There would be a significant impact to the peat on the hillside and in turn the Gweebarra River. There would be a wider impact on designated sites, scenic areas and tourism assets in the area.
- Other general issues, *inter alia*, include the principle of development, other planning applications for a windfarms in the area, construction and operational phase impacts, impacts to residential amenity, traffic and transport, landscape and visual, water, biodiversity, built heritage.

### 3.0 Recommendation


Having considered:

- the general nature, scale and complexity of the proposed development.
- the general plans and particulars submitted by the applicant.
- the general issues raised by the observers.
- the submissions of the observers requesting an oral hearing be held.

It is considered there is sufficient information on file to allow for a proper and full assessment of the case without recourse to an oral hearing. It is not considered that there is any exceptional circumstances or a compelling case for a hearing in this instance. Should any issue arise, it will be best addressed by way of written evidence. It is therefore recommended that an oral hearing not be held.



Tomás Bradley,  
Senior Planning Inspector



Paul Caprani,  
Assistant Director of Planning