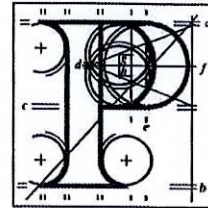


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Theresa Meares
Balinlig Lower
Moate
Co. Westmeath

Date: 05 May 2023

Re: Renewable energy development comprising 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
Umma More and adjacent townlands, County Westmeath.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your observation or submission in relation to the case mentioned above and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the Local Authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

For further information on this case please access our website at www.pleanala.ie and input the 6-digit case number into the search box. This number is shown on the top of this letter (for example: 303000).

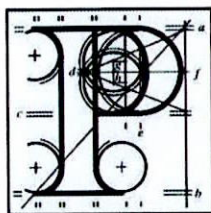
Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

BL50A

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902



An
Bord
Pleanála

Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's
name

Theresa Meares

(b) Observer's
postal address

Balinlig Lower, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else **on this observation**, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal
address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

☒

The agent at the postal address in Part 2

☐

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Bord Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**
(for example: 300000)

316051

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Ummamore Renewable Energy Development Wind Farm

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Ballinlig Lower, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word** limit as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

Wind Energy Guidelines:

The developers proposed to erect 185m high Turbines close to my house in Ballinlig. The developers indicate that they are relying on the 2006 Wind Energy Guidelines. However these guidelines were devised at a time when Wind Turbines for significantly smaller. These guidelines were reviewed by the Dept. of Housing in 2019.

Noise Monitoring Guidelines:

In addition, CPO 10.147 of the Westmeath County Development Plan requires all Wind Energy applications to adhere to the following noise monitoring requirements in their application as follows:

Ensure that proposals for energy development demonstrate that human health has been considered, including those relating to the topics of:

- *Noise (including consistency with the World Health Organization's 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region);*

(Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027, CPO 10.147)

The applicants have failed to present their noise assessments in accordance with the requirement of these W.H.O Guidelines.

Set Back Distances:

In addition, the applicants have failed to adhere to the set-back distances required under the Development Plan as follows:

Policy Objective 10.143 of the Westmeath County Development Plan obliges Westmeath County Council to provide the following setback distances between the wind turbines and residential dwellings as follows:

- *500 metres, where the tip height of the wind turbine blade is greater than 25 metres but does not exceed 50 metres.*

5. Grounds

- 1000 metres, where the tip height of the wind turbine blade is greater than 50 metres but does not exceed 100 metres.
- 1500 metres, where the tip height of the wind turbine blade is greater than 100 metres but does not exceed 150 metres.
- More than 2000 metres, where the tip height of the wind turbine blade is greater than 150 metres.

(Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027, CPO 10.143)

The proposed turbines will have an overall ground-to-blade tip height of 185 metres, blade rotor diameter of 162 metres and hub height of 104 metres. Therefore, there should be a minimum set back of 2,000 metres between the windfarm and adjoining homes.

There is no evidence that the applicants have adhered to any of the setback distance requirements required by the County Development Plan, in their application.

The developers have acknowledged that my home will be affected by shadow flicker by virtue of my close proximity to the proposed Wind Farm.

I have significant complex medical conditions including issues with my hearing. The effect of this wind farm on my health will be profound.

I strongly disapprove of this Strategic Infrastructure Application.

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to [request the Board to hold an oral hearing](#), please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

☒

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

☐

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes