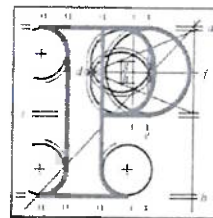


**Our Case Number:** ABP-317809-23

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Amy McDonald  
Luggacurren  
Co. Laois

**Date:** 09 October 2023

**Re:** Proposed Coolglass windfarm and related works  
In the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill,  
Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development 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.


The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

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.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie) quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evan McGuigan  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line:

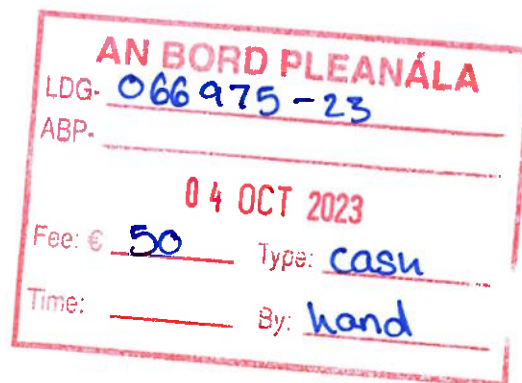
PA04

<b>Tel</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaó Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1890 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Riomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

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

Amy McDonald  
Luggacurren, Co. Laois  
01-10-23

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Malborough Street  
Dublin 1



Case Reference: PA11.317809

Development address; I the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard, and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Proposed Coolglass Windfarm and related works

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Amy McDonald, write to vehemently object to the proposed Coolglass Windfarm in Luggacurren, County Laois. My objection centers on the profound lack of meaningful community engagement with the developer, Statkraft, and the necessity for our voices to be heard in accordance with Article 7 of the Aarhus Convention.

**\*\*Community Engagement: A Fundamental Right\*\***

Community engagement is not a mere formality; it is a fundamental right that empowers residents to participate in decisions that directly affect their lives and environment. Sadly, our community in Luggacurren has experienced a glaring absence of such engagement in the context of the Coolglass Windfarm development.

**\*The Absence of Public Meetings or Consultations\***

There have been no public meetings or consultations held to address our concerns, gather our input, or provide us with the opportunity to voice our objections. This lack of engagement has left our community feeling disenfranchised and disregarded in a matter that will significantly alter the character of our beloved hometown.

Our concerns are not rooted in opposition to renewable energy or addressing climate change. Rather, they center on the fact that we have been deprived of our right to be active participants in a process that profoundly impacts our lives and environment. As a civilised community of people in Luggacurren, we are willing to play our part in addressing climate change, but we insist on our voices being heard.

#### **\*\*The Aarhus Convention: Empowering Communities\*\***

The Aarhus Convention, to which Ireland is a signatory, underscores the importance of public participation in environmental decision-making. Article 7 of this convention grants us the right to be informed, to participate in decision-making processes, and to have access to justice in environmental matters. These rights are not to be taken lightly; they are fundamental to the democratic principles upon which our society is built.

By failing to engage our community, Statkraft has disregarded not only our rights but also the spirit of transparency and accountability that the Aarhus Convention seeks to promote. Our concerns and objections should not be dismissed, but rather embraced as essential contributions to the dialogue surrounding this development.

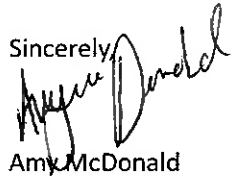
#### **\*\*Conclusion: Protecting Our Community\*\***

In conclusion, I strongly urge that planning permission for the Coolglass Windfarm development be refused, taking into account the profound impact it will have on Luggacurren and its residents. Our concerns are not unfounded; they are grounded in the principles of justice, transparency, and democratic participation that our society holds dear.

We are not against progress, nor are we blind to the urgent need for renewable energy solutions to combat climate change. However, we believe that these goals can and should be achieved with the active involvement of the communities affected. Our voices must be heard, our concerns addressed, and our rights respected.

The potential harm to our environment, heritage, and quality of life cannot be ignored, and we have seen in other parts of Ireland the negative consequences that can arise from similar wind turbine projects. We, the residents of Luggacurren, are committed to protecting our community and its future. We implore the Bord to uphold the principles of the Aarhus Convention and refuse planning permission for this development until our concerns have been genuinely addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy McDonald', written over the printed name.

Amy McDonald