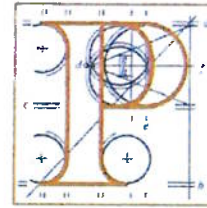


**Our Case Number:** ABP-317809-23



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Deirdre MacQuaile and Darragh Kettle  
The Cottage  
Slatt Lower  
Wolfhill  
Co. Laois  
R14 YF54

**Date:** 12 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>	1800 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>Ríomhphost</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

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Malborough Street  
Dublin 1

2nd October 2023

**Case Reference: PA11.317809**

**Development address; In the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We Deirdre MacQuaile and Darragh Kettle of Slatt Lower, Wolfhill wish to make the following points of observation to the above windfarm proposal by Statkraft.

1. With reference to O’Grianna and others v. An Bord Pleanala 2014) EHC 632 which determined that the environmental impact should be assessed as a whole under article 2(1) of the EIA Directive. We believe that this proposal does not comply with the EIA Directive by eliminating the application of the connection to the grid in their proposal. This is an example of *project splitting*. The EIAR does not refer to the whole project.
2. The promoter has presented this project as a single windfarm in two clusters, presumably to meet ABP’s criteria for an SID. We would argue that this project comprises of two separate developments in two separate areas and as such requires two separate planning applications. Our argument is based on the following: the proposed clusters are located at two very different locations in terms of topography, geology, hydrology and wildlife habitats. Most significantly however, the population density impacted by the Coolglass cluster greatly differs in number to that of the Fossy Mountain cluster and is contrary to proper planning and sustainable development for the area.
3. The Developer states a possible connection to the grid at Coolnabacca. I refer you to the *EirGrid Technology and Innovation Manager Mark Norton’s response at the Oral Hearing of PL11.VA0015, (Page 6, 4.8 Submissions & Responses)*. Mr Norton states ‘The Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement project elements are not being developed whether in whole or in part, to facilitate the connection of renewable generation’. Furthermore, The Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement project is at a standstill due to legal and technical challenges. It cannot be relied upon as a possible grid connection for this project.
4. We query the capacity of this Spink project as a connection along with other proposed renewable projects proposed in the area.

5. The material on the website is voluminous in quantity, contains misleading information and significant errors. For example, the 'residential receptor list' as contained in appendix 5.1 includes the same ITM coordinates being attributed to multiple properties. This may have been an error or corrupt data which serves only to confuse the public. The use of the ITM system which is not user-friendly, unless one has the required software and skillset, makes it impossible for the home owner to determine if their property (residential receptor) will be impacted by the proposed development. This is misleading information.
6. There are multiple inaccuracies within the submission pertaining to maps, receptor numbers, road numbers, including confusion on their site notices relating to two different dates for submission deadlines, one being Oct 6<sup>th</sup> and the other Oct9th 2023.
7. Furthermore, the wind data provided in the application relates specifically to the Fossy mountain cluster and no actual data has been provided for the Coolglass cluster.
8. As residents living on Slatt and in the vicinity of T8-T11, we are particularly concerned about the ringed breeding pair of Peregrine Falcons and their yearly chicks, nesting over the past few years in the Breedon Quarry of Slatt, which we see and hear on a daily basis soaring high over the land where the proposed T8-T11 are sited. We have contacted NPWS regarding these birds and understand their existence and that of two other pairs in Spink and Dunamaise have been recorded. These are a protected species under the EU Habitats Directive.

We are not satisfied that the proposed development will not seriously injure the environmental amenities of the area and impact severely on residential properties and detract from the visual amenities. It would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of this area.

Yours sincerely,



Deirdre MacQuaile and Darragh Kettle

**The Cottage  
Slatt Lower  
Wolfhill  
Co. Laois  
R14YF54**