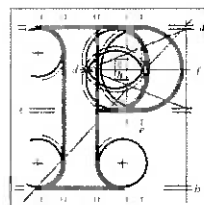


**Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Elizabeth DuBerry  
Slatt Lower  
Wolfhill  
Co. Laois  
R14 NA06

**Date:** 11 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

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<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

Elizabeth DuBerry

Slatt Lower

Wolfhill

Co. Laois

R14NA06

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

03 Oct 2023

**Case Reference: PA11.317809**

**Development address: In the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kilenabehy, Co. Laois.**

**Proposed Coolglass Windfarm and related works**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to you in relation to the proposed windfarm development detailed above. I am a local resident living in The Swan/ Wolfhill area with my family and have knowledge of the local area, I wish to object to this proposed development by Statkraft.

My property is approximately 700m from the nearest turbine (T11) and I am very concerned about the proximity of this massive industrial windfarm to my home. We have recently moved back to the rural countryside to build our family home to live in, raise our family and enjoy the peaceful, serene and beautiful landscape and environment. This proposed windfarm would take this away from us. Please see listed below some of my observations and concerns.

#### **1. Noise**

I am greatly concerned about the potential noise generated (including infrasound) from the turbines especially if they are placed in an upland hilly location within a valley as the Wolfhill southern cluster is. Living in the area I know at first hand that sound in general travels across the valley and can be heard for kilometer's around. My child's bedroom window will be directly facing the windfarm. The thought of the constant noise and whooshing sound of spinning turbine blades with a 162m diameter and the impact on my family is very concerning. The developer cannot mitigate against the noise of a 180m turbine with a

setback distance of approximately 700m to the nearest homes. The developer cannot realistically mitigate how the uphill/downhill gradient will treat the noise from turbines of this measure and what effect it will have on the nearest homes. This development is too close to the homes of local people for turbines of this scale.

## **2. Visual Impact**

The Bord must consider the visual impact on the rural scenic landscape close to the Heritage village of Timahoe and the rural scenic uplands of the Coolglass, Aghadreen, Moyad, Scotland, Wolfhill, and Slatt areas. The proposed development alone would form a visually obtrusive feature in the landscape and negatively impact the nationally significant archaeological, heritage sites and sacred spaces. (2003 Unesco Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage).

## **3. Cumulative Impact**

The Bord must consider the cumulative effects of this proposed development along with the other granted developments (Cullenagh Windfarm, Pinewoods windfarm, Coolnabacky 400kv substation and 300 Acre Solar Farm at Bigbog, Coolnabacky) all of which are within a 10km radius of the subject development.

## **4. Biodiversity Impact**

There are multiple species including peregrine falcons, buzzards, and bats that live, feed and breed close to and within the proposed development area. Turbines of this size would have a serious negative impact on these species and others. They need to be protected in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. There is also evidence of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly in the areas of proposed development. There are also Devils Bit Scabious plants, the food plant for this butterfly, currently growing on the proposed development site. Water courses and streams which originate throughout the catchment of the proposed windfarm development, feed the River Nore and River Barrow, which are both noted for its sensitive stocks of fresh water pearl mussels and crayfish.

## **5. Water**

The location for the proposed development is in an area not open for consideration by the Laois County Development Plan and deemed unsuitable for wind development due to the sensitive environment. The proposed development sits in a Water Source Protection Zone (see Laois CDP map 10.4). The Swan public water scheme identified by the EPA as being 'vulnerable and without an alternative source' is fed by the entire area of the proposed Wolfhill cluster.

## **6. Local Area Amenity**

The Swan Loop walk and Fossy Mountain hiking trail, both beautiful peaceful walks with exceptional views, pass directly through the proposed development site. These popular routes will be hugely negatively impacted by the development. No one will use these walks if the turbines go ahead due to noise exposure and fears for their health and safety when walking so close to (just metres) turbines. These are a stunning and important amenity in the local area which will be destroyed and taken away from the local community.

## **7. Human Health**

I am concerned for the wellbeing, health, and safety of my family and local people should this proposed development go ahead. Issues include disruption to sleep, headaches, increased anxiety, mental health impact to name a few. I have very young sensitive children and I fear for their health and future due to this proposed development. The flashing red lights due to turbine blades spinning and audible and infrasound noise is a serious concern for us and my children. There are cases around the country and the world where people living close the turbines have had health issues as a result of turbine being built close to their homes and have received compensation from Wind farm developers. The proposed windfarm of this size and scale is too close to family's homes, the 500m set-back distance detailed in the 2006 Wind Energy Guidelines are outdated and applicable to turbines of approximately 80m in height. The 4 times turbine height in the 2019 Guidelines would mean 720m minimum for these 180m turbines, the developer is not complying with these guidelines.

**8. Community engagement**

The local community has had no meaningful engagement with the developer Statkraft. No public meetings were held with the community. Therefore, we were obliged to have our own public meetings in the local halls of The Swan and Timahoe to discuss our concerns regarding the environment and protection of our homes per Article 7 Aarhus Convention. We are a civilised community of people, all with our concerns of climate change and willing to play our part.

I respectfully urge that planning permission for this development be refused.

Please note €50 observation fee has been paid on the An Bord Pleanála observation uploader website on 03 Oct 2023.

Yours sincerely,  
Elizabeth DuBerry

