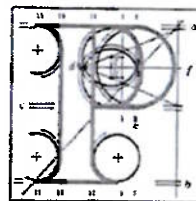


**Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23**

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Patrick and Karen Fleming  
167 Glasaree Road  
Finglas East  
Dublin 11  
D11Y9E4

**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 Kylenabehy, 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,

*PP EGM*

Evan McGuigan  
Executive Officer

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Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Patrick Fleming

167 Glasaree Road,  
Finglas East,  
Dublin 11,  
D11 Y9E4

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Malborough Street  
Dublin 1

**Case Reference: PA11.317809**

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

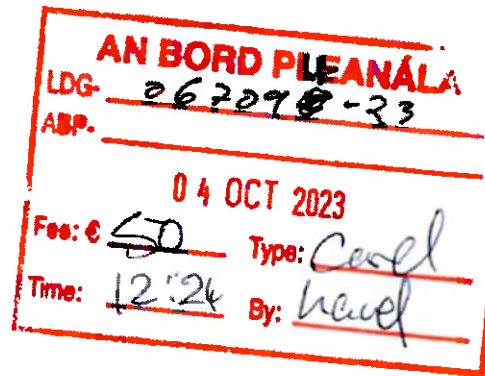
Dear An Bord Pleanála representatives,

I, Patrick, representing both myself and my wife Karen, am writing to formally register our objection to the proposed Coolglass Wind Farm project and its associated developments within the townlands of The Swan, Wolfhill, and Timahoe. Originally from The Swan, I currently reside in Dublin, but I have intentions to build a residence in the vicinity. As the overseeing planning authority responsible for assessing this project, I implore you to take into account the following concerns regarding its potential impact on our rural community, and more specifically, my plans to establish a home in the locality.

My roots run deep in the village of The Swan, where I attended school, formed friendships, engaged in community activities, including playing Gaelic football for our local club, St. Joseph's, and assisted my father with farming the lands in and around The Swan and Wolfhill. This region holds immense sentimental value for me, and I have imminent plans to realize a lifelong dream – building a family home for myself, my wife, and our children on my father's land. Unfortunately, I fear that this dream may now be at risk.

I have outlined my concerns below:

- 1) **Health Concerns:** Individuals that live within close proximity of turbines have reported health issues such as headaches, nausea, and sleep disturbances caused by shadow flicker. I am hugely concerned about the well-being of myself and my family if we proceed with our plans to build a home in this area. For a company to risk people's health concerns is unethical and should be a matter of serious consideration by The Board.



2) **Community Degradation:** I am deeply concerned that the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm may deter prospective residents from choosing to live in our community. The serene and unspoiled nature of this rural area has always been a significant draw for those seeking a peaceful and idyllic environment. However, the introduction of such a large-scale industrial project could mark the beginning of a decline in our community's appeal as a residential destination. This may set a troubling precedent for the sustainability and vitality of our community as a whole. This cannot be overlooked by The Board.

3) **Property Values:** There is a substantial body of research indicating that the proximity of wind farms can negatively impact property values to as much as 12% on residential homes within 2km of a turbine. This project may result in a significant reduction in my property's value, which would be 1.8km from the nearest turbine. To that affect, I may have to reconsider raising a family in my home village. Additionally, it is noted that there are 179 properties within 1km of the turbines and 105 residences withing 500m of cable routes which may suffer greater property value losses. This needs to be considered by The Board.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/judeclemente/2015/09/23/do-wind-turbines-lower-property-values/?sh=7517663248cb>

4) **Noise Pollution:** Wind turbines can generate substantial noise levels, which can be disruptive to the peace and quiet that residents of our rural area cherish. Research conducted in other areas with wind farms has shown that noise can lead to sleep disturbances and decreased quality of life for nearby residents. There is a newly constructed home, which would be approx. 700 metres from the nearest turbine (T11). It is implausible for Statkraft to effectively mitigate the noise levels generated by the turbine, especially when considering the cumulative impact of adjacent turbines. The company's assertion that they can do so should be deemed inaccurate.

5) **Visual Impact:** The proposed wind farm will significantly alter the landscape of our rural area, detracting from its natural beauty and tranquillity. The towering wind turbines, which will be some of the largest in the country, will be visible from all over the county and, quite significantly, adjoining counties (Kildare and Kilkenny), diminishing the scenic value of our region.

Additionally, in the photo montages, provided by Statkraft, have intentionally tried to mislead The Board by taking pictures behind many structures, ditches and trees that intend to hide the true size and impact of the turbines on our area.

Statkraft initially proposed 190-metre turbines for The Swan area but later determined that turbines of this size would cause excessive disruption to the village. In response, they reduced the size to 180 metres. However, the mere 10-metre difference, representing just a 5% reduction, is unlikely to be a satisfactory solution if they previously found 190 meters to be unsuitable for the area.

6) **Wildlife Disruption:** I am concerned about the potential impact on local wildlife, including birds and bats. Studies have shown that wind turbines can pose a threat to these species, which are an integral part of our ecosystem. It is a confirmed breeding ground and hunting ground for **Perigrine Falcons**, which are protected by Irish and EU law, since their numbers in Ireland dropped to as low as 14 pairs in the 1970s, currently there are around 400 breeding pairs. There are almost daily sightings of Perigrine Falcons in the area which completely opposes the data provided by developer and would but this species at high risk.

<https://westcorkpeople.ie/highlights/clonakilty-welcomes-the-planets-fastest-animal-the-peregrine-falcon/>

**Bats** are essential to the environment as pollinators, insect controllers, and contributors to biodiversity, and the potential harm to bat populations from the proposed wind farm must be addressed to preserve the ecological balance of our region. In my childhood, I have cherished memories of helping my father erect bat boxes on our farmland, and these experiences have instilled in me a deep appreciation for the importance of preserving bat populations in our environment. During the construction phase of a project there can potentially be losses of roosting, foraging and commuting routes for bats. During the operation phase, there is a potential for collisions between bats and moving turbine blades and barotrauma effects. Possible changes to bat behaviour, for example avoidance of areas close to turbines, may also potentially occur.

<https://ecofact.ie/wind-farm-bat-surveys/>

The developer's mitigation plan of a buffer zone for the bats where trees are felled to a certain distance of the turbine is an illogical mitigation plan and would only lead to one outcome for the bat population in the area: eradication.

In the vicinity of the forestry plantations within the designated development area, there are locations where Devil's Bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, which serves as the food source for the protected **Marsh Fritillary butterfly** (an Annex II protected species), can be found. It's important to highlight that the developer did not conduct a specific on-site study for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, as their desktop data assessment indicated the absence of suitable habitats for this butterfly's food source.

<https://www.npws.ie/research-projects/animal-species/invertebrates/marsh-fritillary-euphydryas-aurinia>

Considering the presence of Devil's Bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis* at the proposed development site, it is imperative that a comprehensive field study be mandated to thoroughly evaluate the habitat and potential impact on the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the Coolglass wind farm project. The anticipated decline in my property's value, the well-documented noise concerns arising from the turbines, compounded by their close proximity, and valid health-related worries are substantial concerns.

Furthermore, it is evident that the developer, Statkraft, has not engaged meaningfully with our community to address these concerns adequately. The lack of a sincere effort to involve the community in decision-making processes raises questions about the project's transparency and fairness. Leaflet drops in our letterboxes do not constitute genuine community engagement.

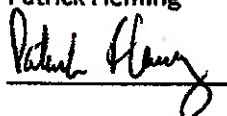
I kindly request The Board to conduct a thorough assessment of these matters, acknowledging our community's awareness of climate-related issues. In light of these concerns, I urge you to refuse the granting of planning permission for the proposed wind farm, taking into account potential impacts on our homes, health, and community.



The €50 submission fee has been paid in person at ABP headquarters and further correspondence can be sent to me at the address on the letter head.

Thank you for your attention to these critical matters. I look forward to a fair and comprehensive review of our objections.

Respectfully,  
Patrick Fleming



|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b> |                 |
| LDG-                    | _____           |
| ABP-                    | _____           |
| <b>04 OCT 2023</b>      |                 |
| Fee: €                  | _____           |
| Time:                   | _____ By: _____ |