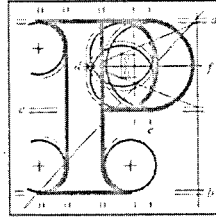


Our Case Number: ABP-318802-24



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Cobh Traditional Music & Folk Festival Committee
Glasson's Ave
Carrignafoy
Cobh
Co. Cork
P24N978

Date: 02 December 2025

Re: Proposed development of a resource recovery centre (including waste-to-energy facility)
in Ringaskiddy, County Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún 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 Commission 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 Coimisiún Pleanála when they have been processed by the Commission.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin McGettigan

Kevin McGettigan
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737263

PA04

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Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Cobh Traditional Music & Folk Festival Committee

Glasson's Ave
Carrignafoy
Cobh
P24N978



12th November 2025

The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre

Case Reference: PA04.318802

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter constitutes a formal objection from the committee of the **Cobh Traditional Music & Folk Festival** (<https://cobhtradfest.ie/>) to the planning application by Indaver Ireland for a waste incinerator at Ringaskiddy (Ref: PA04.318802).

Our committee held its successful inaugural festival in 2025 and is currently planning for an expanded event in 2026. Our core mission is to promote Cobh's rich cultural heritage, grow tourism, and contribute to the local economy.

The proposed development fundamentally threatens these objectives and the future viability of Cobh and Cork Harbour as a premier tourist and cultural destination. Our objections are focused on two key areas:

1. Irreconcilable Land-Use Conflict and Tourism Impact

Our festival, along with the entire Cobh tourism sector, depends on the unique scenic and heritage value of Cork Harbour. The harbour is a significant natural amenity that has benefited from substantial public investment in tourism and amenity, including the €61m Haulbowline Island redevelopment from the environmental issues created by Irish Steel and the €6.5m spent turning Spike Island into a safe tourist attraction. This investment, combined with over 100 annual cruise liner visits, demonstrates a clear commitment to a tourism-led future.

The introduction of a 240,000-tonne-per-annum incinerator into this congested, mixed-use environment represents a significant risk of over-industrialisation. It creates an irreconcilable land-use conflict that is fundamentally incompatible with the established and future tourism development of the harbour. This proposal would negatively impact the visual amenity of the harbour, damaging the very "product" that our festival and other operators rely on to attract visitors.

2. Unacceptable Risk to Public Health and Safety

The success of a public festival is contingent on a safe environment. This proposal introduces significant and unacceptable risks. The site is located in close proximity to the 15,000 residents of Cobh and Great Island.

Critically, these 15,000 residents—in addition to thousands of potential festival attendees—are **dependent on a single hump-backed bridge for access and egress.**

The proponent's own Environmental Impact Statement identifies a 'substantial risk' of a major bunker fire. Given the applicant's operational history, which includes serious fires and explosions at its European plants (Antwerp 2016/2018, Doel 2025), this risk is not merely theoretical. A major accident during a festival weekend or busy tourist season would be catastrophic, overwhelming emergency services and creating an unmanageable situation on an island with only one exit point.

Conclusion

This proposal is sited in a fundamentally inappropriate location. It contradicts local and national policy, threatens multi-million-euro public investment in the harbour, and places the public at undue risk. It directly undermines the work of community organisations like ours who are striving to build a sustainable, positive, and tourism-focused future for Cobh.

We respectfully urge the Board to refuse permission for this development and we kindly request a full public hearing to continue full public participation in this application.

Yours sincerely,

The Committee

Cobh Traditional Music & Folk Festival