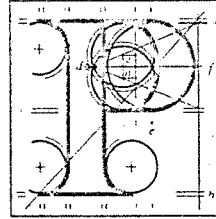


Our Case Number: ABP-318802-24



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Dominick Donnelly
36 Spring Place
Gardiners Hill
Cork City
Co. Cork

Date: 22 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.

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.

Please be advised that, as you made a submission in relation to the previous application (PA0045), you are not required to pay a fee in order to make this submission. Accordingly, a refund for the €50 that you have paid will issue to the debit/credit card used to make the online payment (SID-OBS-004185).

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
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737263

PA04

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Mr. Dominick Donnelly
36 Spring Place
Gardiner's Hill
Cork City
Email: dominickdonnelly@gmail.com

17th November 2025

**Submission of Mr. Dominick Donnelly to An Coimisiún Pleanála for Resource
Recover Station at Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork
Case Reference ABP 318802-24**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I hereby object to the above proposal on a number of grounds, which are outlined below. I trust that in the processing of this application, all due care and consideration will be given to my objections.

1) Cork Harbour is not a dumping ground any more

- This proposed incinerator would basically be dumping pollutants into the air, and would have very negative effects on the general wellbeing and environment of the Cork Harbour area, and the people living and working there.
- In the past Cork Harbour was the main location in Ireland for heavy industry, with steel making, ship building, the oil refinery and the fertiliser factory among the main industries in the area. In recent years and decades, this has shifted dramatically, and Cork Harbour is rightly beginning to show its more attractive side, with most of the dirty industries now gone, and with new developments either already in existence, or in train, which show the harbour in a whole new light, and which shift the focus of development in the area significantly. This proposal is very much a backwards step, viewing Cork Harbour as a dumping ground for dirty industries, rather than opening up the harbour and its surrounds as a residential and amenity area of the highest quality. There is a very significant population already living and working in close proximity to the proposed development, and with what environmental indicators there are for the harbour area, which are insufficient, all showing an improving healthier environment for both people and wildlife in the harbour, this proposal would inevitably send these improvements into reverse again.
- The opening up of Spike Island to visitors, and the continued development of facilities on the island, with its fort and its phenomenal history as a penal colony, monastic site and prison, has dramatically changed the tourism landscape of the harbour area. As Spike Island continues to develop as one of the country's premier tourism sites, it would be reckless in the extreme to locate a facility such as the one proposed in such close proximity. There also continues to be other developments in the area to enhance the amenity value of the harbour, such as at Fort Camden, and with continued developments in tourist infrastructure in Cobh and other places in the harbour, tourism in the area is set to grow apace, with all the ensuing benefits in terms of economics and employment. Visually this proposal sends out all the wrong signals to visitors to the area, and would no doubt curtail the future development of tourism in the harbour area.

- With a number of areas around the harbour designated as Special Protection Areas for birds, and with two of those in close proximity to this proposal at Loughbeg and Monkstown Creek, this proposal would surely have the potential to have very negative effects on the future of these SPAs.
- With the cruise liner terminal at Cobh and the ferry port at Ringaskiddy both being within sight of this proposed development, it would give a very poor first impression of this country, and in no way does it add any amenity value to our potential visitors.
- The very close proximity of the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) and the Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster (imerc), along with the Naval Base at Haulbowline Island, to this proposed development makes this site woefully unsuitable for such a development. With the number of students and researchers in the area continuing to grow, it would be chronically bad planning to put future developments in these important areas at risk by locating such a detrimental development as this right alongside. Also the site proposed for this development may be needed in the future for further development of this highly important and strategic cluster.

2) The site is wholly unsuitable for this development

- Basically the site is too small for this proposal, and is in completely the wrong place. With the coastal erosion on Gobby Beach, the regularity with which the road outside the site floods, and its location at the end of a peninsula, it is hard to imagine a worse site for an incinerator. With Cork Harbour having thermal inversions on a number of occasions every year, that also makes the site a ridiculous place to consider building an incinerator.
- Every load of waste coming to this proposed facility would have to come by road, along the N28/ M28, with the vast bulk coming through the Jack Lynch Tunnel. The road infrastructure in this part of Cork City and surroundings is already at breaking point, as illustrated by what is known locally as "Carmaggedon" on December 3rd 2015, when large parts of the city and surrounding, including the tunnel, were in gridlock for a large number of hours. The addition of a large number of trucks travelling this route daily to and from the proposed incinerator would make this situation dramatically worse, and would definitely increase the likelihood of many more "Carmaggedon" type events. Any road closure, whether it be for weather reasons or because of an accident or for whatever other reason, already has the potential to cause traffic chaos, and the very large number of trucks travelling to and from this proposed development would make any such event much worse.
- If this proposed development is meant to be a regional facility to deal with waste largely arising in Munster, then surely it should be located much more centrally within the province, in a location with a number of access routes, rather than just one, and a location which does not have large residential towns in very close proximity.
- 25 years ago, when this whole proposal started, the site at Ringaskiddy was the wrong site. Nothing in the interim has changed any of that. It fails the guidelines for the siting of incinerators on almost all grounds. Nothing can ever fix that.

3) No public acceptance of this proposal

- As you are no doubt aware, there is little or no public acceptance of this proposal among the communities living around the harbour. Through CHASE, and its sister organisations, the communities around the harbour have shown enormous resolve and commitment to fight this proposal to the last, as we have been doing for more than fifteen years now. There are some within the community who believe that fighting this is a waste of time, as the big guy always gets his way in spite of the

communities' wishes. However there are many, many more within our communities who will fight this proposal to the last. We are all hopeful that the outcome of this hearing will give us peace at last, and will finally kill off Indaver and their ridiculous proposal, by refusing them planning permission. However if that is not the case, the fight will continue, and I assure you that the feeling within our communities is so strong that I guarantee that these incinerators will not be built. I hope that you save us all from further grief by killing it off now. If planning permission were granted for this proposal at this stage, the psychological effects on the wider population of the locality would be hard to guess at this stage, but to say that there would be widespread anger and disenchantment is, I think, a minimum. I think that it would lead to further deterioration in the already widespread disillusionment with the "system" and that the big guy always wins to the detriment of the ordinary citizen. Surely it is part of the role of An Bord Pleanála to consider what is in the best interests of the general population, and not just the economic interests of one company.

4) Detrimental to employment in the national waste industry

- With two large incinerators in the country already in operation, surely it is wise to hold off with any further planning permissions in this industry until the overall requirement, if any, for such facilities is more clearly ascertained. Surely it would be bad planning to grant permission for a third until it is clear that there would be a national demand for a third incinerator.
- Also the overall effect of the construction of another incinerator on the existing waste industry in Ireland is not at all clear. What is clear is that the existing waste industry are not seeking this facility to be built. It is my firm belief that the building of this proposed incinerator would lead to an overall reduction in employment within the waste industry, and would also lead to an overall reduction in the proportions of the waste streams going for recycling, etc, as has happened in many countries previously, such as Sweden. It is clear that the developer is building this in a port to facilitate the importation of waste for incineration.

5) No consideration for the health implications of the residents

- Within our planning system, the overall health effects of a proposal are not adequately dealt with, falling as they do between the two stools of An Bord Pleanála and the EPA. But the health threats of a proposal such as this are very real, and very serious. There is growing international evidence showing numerous negative health effects of living in close proximity to an incinerator. There is generally a reluctance of Governments, particularly within Europe where most countries have numerous incinerators, to fund such research, but what research there is is highly worrying. With a town like Cobh in such close proximity, where there are already serious concerns about the low general standard of health of the population, surely it would be rash in the extreme to impose further strains on the general health of the population as a development such as this would inevitably impose.

I trust that you will consider the points made in my objection seriously and diligently, and it is my hope that you will come to the same conclusion as I have about this proposal: that it is unnecessary, dangerous, and in completely the wrong location, and that you will therefore not grant it planning permission. I ask that you provide the local community the possibility to engage with the application fully by holding an oral hearing.

Yours faithfully,
Dominick Donnelly