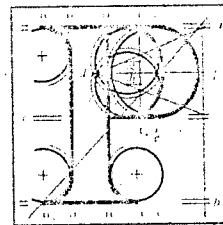


Our Case Number: ABP-318802-24

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Noel McCarthy TD
Fermoy
Cork

Date: 26 November 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

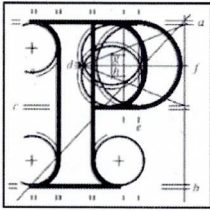
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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902



Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's
name

Noel McCarthy TD

(b) Observer's
postal address

Fermoy
Co Cork

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else **on this observation**, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal
address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

The agent at the postal address in Part 2

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Bord Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**
(for example: 300000)

318802

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Proposed development of a resource recovery centre (including waste-to-energy facility) at Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word** limit as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála: Objection to Indaver Incinerator (ABP 318802)

From: Noel McCarthy T.D., Cork East Constituency

Date: [12-11-25]

Subject: Formal Objection to the Proposed Indaver Incinerator at Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork

1. Introduction

As a public representative for the people of Cork East, I wish to register my strong objection to the proposed Indaver Incinerator in Ringaskiddy (Planning Ref. ABP 318802). This objection is made on behalf of the thousands of residents across Cobh, East Cork, and the wider Cork Harbour communities who have consistently voiced deep and legitimate concerns about this development — concerns rooted in public health, environmental protection, and the long-term economic sustainability of our region.

5. Grounds

Cork Harbour is not merely an industrial zone. It is a living, breathing ecosystem that supports thriving communities, a growing tourism economy, and an invaluable natural heritage. The proposed incinerator stands in direct contradiction to the sustainable, health-conscious, and tourism-driven vision that the people of Cork East and Cobh are working tirelessly to achieve.

2. Public Health Concerns

For over two decades, local residents and medical professionals have warned of the potential health risks associated with large-scale waste incineration — particularly the emission of fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), dioxins, and heavy metals. These substances are known to have cumulative effects on respiratory and cardiovascular health, especially among vulnerable populations such as children, older people, and those with existing conditions.

Cobh, located directly across the harbour from Ringaskiddy, is frequently cited as one of the most air pollution-affected towns in Ireland. Residents have documented visible emissions and odours from existing industrial operations, and the addition of a major waste incinerator would only exacerbate an already fragile situation. It is unconscionable to approve such a development in close proximity to dense population centres like Cobh, Carrigaline, and Passage West.

5. Grounds

I am from Cobh, I have family and many friends living in Cobh and I care deeply for Cobh and it's community. This proposed incinerator is wrong for the people of Cobh.

In a time when the State is investing heavily in improving air quality, tackling respiratory disease, and promoting green energy transitions, it would be entirely inconsistent to allow a facility that burns waste at scale to proceed within Ireland's largest natural harbour.

3. Impact on Tourism and the Image of Cork Harbour

Tourism is one of the most promising growth sectors in East Cork and Cobh. In recent years, Cobh has become a jewel in Ireland's cruise tourism sector — welcoming hundreds of thousands of international visitors each year. Its skyline, maritime heritage, and waterfront have been central to Cork's tourism narrative.

To place a large industrial incinerator across the water from Cobh's iconic cathedral and promenade would be to fundamentally undermine that brand. Cruise passengers arriving into Cork Harbour expect to see one of the most picturesque natural harbours in Europe, not the visual and symbolic blight of an incineration plant.

Furthermore, the Cork Harbour Greenway, Spike Island, and Fota Wildlife Park — all key tourism assets — would be directly affected by both the visual intrusion and perceived environmental

5. Grounds

degradation associated with the incinerator. It is difficult to reconcile this project with the local and national strategies that promote Cork Harbour as a blue-green tourism destination.

4. Community Trust and the Weight of Public Concern

The people of Cork East and Cobh have participated in countless consultations, hearings, and reviews concerning this proposal. Their opposition has been consistent, informed, and deeply rooted in concern for their families, their environment, and their economic future.

To approve this project would send a clear and damaging message: that local voices, local expertise, and local democratic will can be overridden by corporate persistence. It would deepen cynicism about planning fairness and environmental justice in Ireland.

Moreover, the repeated resubmissions of this proposal over many years — despite widespread rejection by the local community and Cork County Council — demonstrate a disregard for the principle of community consent. The people of Cork East should not have to relitigate their health and quality of life every few years simply because an industrial developer refuses to accept the will of the community.

5. Grounds

5. A Vision for Cork Harbour's Future

Cork Harbour is uniquely positioned to be a hub for renewable energy, green innovation, and sustainable tourism. Offshore wind, clean marine research, and eco-tourism initiatives represent a future-oriented alternative to the outdated and polluting model of waste incineration.

Allowing this incinerator to proceed would lock Cork Harbour into the wrong kind of legacy — one that prioritises short-term profit over long-term prosperity, and industrial convenience over public well-being.

6. Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above — public health, environmental integrity, the protection of tourism, and the clear and overwhelming public opposition — I urge you to refuse permission for the proposed incinerator.

This is not merely a planning decision; it is a statement about what kind of future we envision for Cork Harbour and the generations who will live, work, and breathe here. The people of Cobh and Cork East deserve better than to have their health and heritage placed at risk by an incinerator that serves neither their needs nor Ireland's environmental commitments.

5. Grounds

Signed,

Noel McCarthy T.D.

Teachta Dála for Cork East Constituency

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to [request the Board to hold an oral hearing](#), please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes