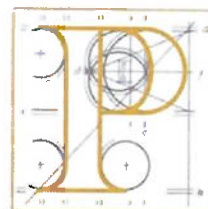


**Our Case Number:** ABP-318816-24



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Patrick and Kathleen Watkins  
Ballycolin  
Fivealley  
Birr  
Co. Offaly  
R42 F340

**Date:** 04 March 2024

**Re:** 10 year planning permission for wind energy development consisting of 8 no. wind turbines and all associated works  
located at Cush, Galros West, Boolinarig Big, Eglish, and Ballindown, Co. Offaly.  
([www.cushwindfarmplanning.ie](http://www.cushwindfarmplanning.ie))

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. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Moss  
Administrative Assistant  
Direct Line: 01-8737285

PA04

Teil  
Glao Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Riomhphost

Tel  
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Website  
Email  
(01) 858 8100  
1800 275 175  
(01) 872 2684  
[www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
[bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

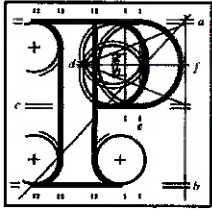
**Tel**  
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**Láithreán Gréasáin**  
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An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Observation on a Planning Appeal: Form.

### Your 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:

Your full details:

(a) Name

Patrick & Kathleen Watkins

(b) Address

Ballycollin, Fivealley, Birr, Co. Offaly  
R42F340

### Agent's details

#### 2. Agent's details

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 address

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Postal address for letters

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

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

☒

**The agent at the address in Part 2**

☐

## Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the appeal you wish to make an observation on. If you want, you can include a copy of the planning authority's decision as the observation details.

**(a) Planning authority**

(for example: Ballytown City Council)

Offaly County Council

**(b) An Bord Pleanála appeal case number (if available)**

(for example: ABP-300000-19)

APB-313778-22

**(c) Planning authority register reference number**

(for example: 18/0123)

PA19.318816

**(d) Location of proposed development**

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

Planning Application for a wind energy development and all associated works at Cush, Galros West, Boolinarig Big, Eglish, and Ballindown, County Offaly. By Cush Wind Farm (CWF)

## Observation details

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

Top of Form

**Subject: Objection to Planning Permission for Proposed CWF 8 turbines with 200-Meter High Wind Turbines**

I am writing to formally object to the planning application made by Cush Wind Farm (CWF) for the installation of eight 200-meter high wind turbines in close proximity to residential properties, including my own. My objection is based on several significant concerns regarding the size of the proposed turbines, their proximity to our homes, and the impact on noise levels and light flicker and density of wind turbines in this small area.

**Meenwaun Wind Farm 4 turbines**

**The Gaeltech Wind Farm near Cloghan will have 9 turbines**

**Bord na Mona wind farm at Derrinlough will have 21 turbines**

**Cush Wind Farm will have 8 turbines overall height of 200 meters**

Currently, there are 13 operational wind turbines and 21 wind turbines under construction between Birr and Cloughan. Additionally, CWF has proposed the installation of 8 more wind turbines in the vicinity. This concentration of turbines will lead to some residents finding themselves surrounded by these structures, resulting in an overwhelming presence due to the high density of wind turbines. The cumulative effects of noise, shadow flickering, and visual impact will be particularly oppressive for residents in such a confined area.

The sheer size of the proposed CWF turbines at 200 meters height is not in keeping with the character of the area, especially when compared to the existing turbines in the area which have a height of between 165 – 185

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

meters. The substantial increase in height exacerbates concerns about their visual impact and compatibility with the surrounding landscape.

Furthermore, the proposed turbines' close proximity to residential dwellings raises serious concerns about potential noise disturbances. Having worked near the Cloghan Wind Farm, I can attest to the notable noise levels generated by wind turbines. While the developer claims that the proposed units are of a new design and will be quieter than existing units, there is no concrete evidence to support this assertion. Without existing units to compare noise levels, it is speculative to claim that the proposed turbines will indeed be quieter.

Reports by Derek Fanning on 17th November 2023, as cited on the OffalyLive website, highlight residents' complaints about noise and light flicker from wind turbines. The issue of light flicker was addressed during community meetings, with assurances given regarding the implementation of computer controls on the turbines to mitigate this effect. However, it is essential to clarify whether such controls are included in the specifications outlined in the planning application. Furthermore, if planning permission is granted, it is crucial that the operators consult with residents to understand and effectively control flicker levels to eliminate disruption to homes in the community.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the planning authority to reject the application for the installation of these 200-meter high wind turbines. The potential adverse impacts on noise levels and light flicker, coupled with uncertainties surrounding the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures, pose significant risks to the well-being and quality of life of nearby residents.

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

**Distance from residential dwelling to wind turbines:**

When addressing the issue of turbine placement and its proximity to residences in a wind farm planning application, it is crucial to emphasize the importance of transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. The lack of specific details regarding the distance between residences and wind turbines, as observed in the CWF planning application, raises significant concerns about potential impacts on nearby communities.

It is essential for me as a resident and the community to highlight the potential adverse effects that inadequate setback distances can have on residents, including noise pollution, shadow flicker, and visual intrusion. Without clear information on the planned distance between residences and turbines, residents are left uncertain about the potential risks to their health, well-being, and property values.

Furthermore, the absence of defined criteria or guidelines for turbine placement raises questions about the level of discretion afforded to CWF in determining the final location of each turbine. Without explicit limitations or oversight, there is a risk that turbine placement decisions may prioritize convenience or cost-effectiveness over the protection of residential areas and the environment.

To address these concerns and ensure a fair and transparent planning process, it is imperative that the planning application includes detailed information on the proposed distance between residences and turbines, as well as the criteria and considerations guiding turbine placement decisions.

5. Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

This information would enable residents and stakeholders to assess the potential impacts and provide meaningful input into the planning process.

In conclusion, the lack of specific details regarding turbine placement and setback distances in the CWF planning application underscores the need for greater transparency, accountability, and community engagement in wind farm development projects. It is essential that residents' concerns are addressed, and their voices heard throughout the planning process to ensure that the project aligns with the best interests of the community and the environment.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that you will give due consideration to the concerns raised and prioritize the protection of the community's interests in reaching your decision on this matter.

Patrick and Kathleen Watkins

## 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.

## Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct **fee** is included with your observation. You can find out the correct fee to include in our [Fees and Charges Guide](#) on our website.

This document has been awarded a Plain English mark by NALA.

Last updated: April 2019.

