

Date 24/11/25

Original Date- 29/04/2024

An Bord Pleanála Case No 319307- Submission (Additional Submission)

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA	
LDG- _____	
ACP- _____	
08 JAN 2026	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: 9:15	By: Reg Post

My name is Noreen Brick. I live in Caherlea, Belclare, Tuam Co. Galway Eircode H54N256. I live with my family within the 2 kilometre radius of the proposed Laurclavagh Wind Farm site. We are one of 450 homes in close proximity to the proposed development. I have major concerns in relation to this proposed wind farm.

In addition to the practical, environmental and welfare concerns outlined below, I believe the proposed development also raises significant issues under the **Constitution of Ireland**, which provides several rights relevant to this case:

- **Article 40.5** -the dwelling of every citizen is inviolable
- **Article 40.3** - protection of personal rights, including bodily integrity, privacy, and personal security
- **Article 41** - the State's duty to protect the family
- **Article 43** -the right to private property and its peaceful enjoyment

The operation of large industrial turbines at a distance of only 1 km from homes raises clear concerns regarding the infringement of these constitutional protections, particularly where credible scientific evidence demonstrates risks related to noise, low-frequency vibration, shadow flicker, and their impact on sleep, health, and wellbeing. Any development capable of causing such disturbance must be assessed not only in terms of planning policy, but also in light of the State's obligation to uphold these constitutional rights.

1. Impact on Connemara Ponies and the Equine Industry

I am a proud member of the Connemara Pony Breeders Society and I breed Connemara ponies at my home in Caherlea, which is in very close proximity to the proposed wind farm site. I have major concerns for the health and wellbeing of the present and future ponies due to numerous factors:

- Ponies and horses have very sensitive hearing. Sound waves travelling underground from the proposed site, both during construction and throughout operation, will cause sensory issues to these animals on a daily basis.
- The shadow flicker and startling effect from turbines have been shown in research to affect equine in the same way they affect humans.
- The Irish Horse and Pony Breeders and Trainers have expressed serious concerns that wind farms not placed "at a suitable and appropriate distance" pose "a very real risk" that could threaten international investment in the Irish horse industry. Trainers note that young horses being broken and ridden for the first time are particularly vulnerable to wind farm and pylon noise (Equestrian Report re Gaeltech, 2014).

Given that equine breeding forms part of my livelihood and family life, any threat to animal welfare also engages my constitutional right to the peaceful enjoyment of private property (Art. 43) and the protection of family life (Art. 41).

2. Proximity to National Schools and Impact on Children with Additional Needs

There are four National Schools in close proximity to the proposed wind farm, all of which have students with additional needs such as Autism. The wind farm would be detrimental to the progression, development, and daily lives of these children. Shadow flicker, noise pollution, and low-frequency vibration can significantly interfere with sensory processing.

As described in *Atypical sensory processing features in Children with Autism* (2022):

"Sensory processing refers to challenges regulating the type and intensity of behavioural responses to sensory input. Many individuals with Autism will get distressed when faced with lights, loud sounds or particular tactile sensations."

The State has a constitutional obligation under **Articles 40.3 and 41** to protect personal wellbeing, bodily integrity, and family life. Locating industrial turbines so close to vulnerable children conflicts with those obligations.

3. Impact on Future Provision of Equine Therapy

Equine Therapy is an area I am very interested in and hope to become involved in in future. Equine Therapy has repeatedly proven to be of immense benefit to children with additional needs. The multi-sensory experience of riding a horse stimulates both physical and emotional systems in the body, and many children on the Autism Spectrum find the wave-like movement of trotting and cantering soothing.

If equine in the area are negatively affected by noise, vibration, or shadow flicker, the possibility of offering Equine Therapy from my home or local facilities may be significantly reduced. This again touches on constitutional protections relating to livelihood, private property (Art. 43), and family wellbeing (Art. 41).

4. Visual, Recreational and Environmental Impact on Knockma Hill and Local Biodiversity

Only 3.6 kilometres from the proposed site lies Knockma Hill in Castlehacket, standing 168 metres high. Our home is visible from its summit. I enjoy walking Knockma regularly; it is steeped in heritage, folklore, and natural beauty. The proposed turbines, at 185 metres high, would exceed the height of Knockma itself and cause major landscape intrusion.

Knockma is visited daily by locals and tourists seeking recreation, nature, and tranquillity. The area contains rich biodiversity, including whooper swans, the rare and protected Hen Harrier, buzzards, peregrine falcon, and multiple bat species. These habitats require careful and proactive protection. The constitutional right to the peaceful enjoyment of one's environment and surroundings—part of the broader rights under **Articles 40.3 and 43**—must be taken into account when assessing developments of this scale.

5. Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028

I have read the Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028, which, following extensive examination, clearly indicates that wind farm applications in this area are “**generally to be discouraged**” due to the importance of protecting biodiversity, heritage, residential amenity, and community wellbeing.

A development that contradicts the County Development Plan and risks infringing constitutional protections cannot be regarded as proper planning or sustainable development.

Conclusion

For the reasons above—environmental, equine welfare, community health, impacts on children with additional needs, landscape intrusion, and conflicts with the Galway County Development Plan, along with the serious concerns regarding infringement of constitutional rights under **Articles 40.3, 40.5, 41, and 43**, I respectfully request that **An Bord Pleanála refuse this proposed development**.

Kind regards,

Signed-

Noreen Brick

