

# Validation Checklist

Lodgement Number : **LDG-079552-25**  
Case Number: **ABP-322336-25**  
Customer: **Sinead O'Brien**  
Lodgement Date: **22/04/2025 16:43:00**  
Validation Officer: **Cathy Carleton**  
PA Name: **Mayo County Council**  
PA Reg Ref: **2560055**  
Case Type: **Normal Planning Appeal PDA2000**  
Lodgement Type: **Appeal**



Validation Checklist	Value
Confirm Classification	Confirmed - Correct
Confirm PA Case Link	Confirmed-Correct
Confirm ABP Case Link	Confirmed-Correct
Fee/Payment	Valid – Correct
Name and Address available	Yes
Agent Name and Address available (if engaged)	Not Applicable
Subject Matter available	Yes
Grounds	Yes
Sufficient Fee Received	Yes
Received On time	Yes
3rd Party Acknowledgement	Yes
Eligible to make lodgement	Yes
Completeness Check of Documentation	Yes
Valid Lodgement Channel	Yes

New 3rd party appeal

- BP01
- BP05
- BP07 Digital
- Set up SharePoint Site
- Put case form + fee coversheet in pouch in inside cover

Run at: 23/04/2025 09:40

Run by: Cathy Carleton

PA notified on 23/4/25

**Cathy Carleton**

---

**From:** Cathy Carleton  
**Sent:** Wednesday 23 April 2025 09:42  
**To:** planning@mayococo.ie  
**Subject:** New appeal

Hi,

The Board has received an Appeal dated 22 April 2025 from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party Sinead O'Brien in relation to your reference 2460055.

In order for the Board to validate this appeal, can you please confirm the following;

1. Your date of decision
2. Name and Address of Applicant:
3. Name and Address of Agent (if any):
4. Full Development Description
5. If an EIAR was submitted with the planning application at any stage?
6. If an NIS was submitted with this planning application at any stage?
7. If this planning application is for an LRD (Large Residential Development) or if it is for Normal Planning Application?

Please note our reference is ABP-322336-25.

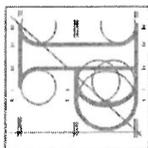
Kind regards,  
Cathy Carleton

# Lodgement Cover Sheet - LDG-079552-25

ABP-322336-25

~~MDMA~~

DD-021199-25



An Bord Pleanála

## Details

Lodgement Date	22/04/2025
Customer	Sinead O'Brien
Lodgement Channel	In Person
Lodgement by Agent	No
Agent Name	
Correspondence Primarily Sent to	
Registered Post Reference	

Lodgement ID	LDG-079552-25
Map ID	
Created By	Shirley Connolly
Physical Items included	No
Generate Acknowledgement Letter	
Customer Ref. No.	
PA Reg Ref	246 0055

## Categorisation

Lodgement Type	Appeal
Section	Processing

PA Name	Mayo County Council
Case Type (3rd Level Category)	

## Fee and Payments

Specified Body	No
Oral Hearing	No
Fee Calculation Method	System
Currency	Euro
Fee Paid	220.00 ✓
Refund Amount	

Observation/Objection Allowed?	
Payment	PMT-062227-25
Related Payment Details Record	PD-062074-25

## Appeal

DOD: 26/3/25

LID: 22/4/25 ✓

ACK ✓

Name + address ✓

BPO1  
BPO5 Digital  
BPO7



# Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo Mayo County Council



Planning and Development Section  
Áras and Chontae, Castlebar, Co. Mayo  
www.mayo.ie | 0949064000

*WJ*

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG-	<u>079552-25</u>
ABP-	_____
<b>22 APR 2025</b>	
Fee: €	<u>220</u> Type: <u>CASH</u>
Time: <u>16:34</u>	By: <u>HAND SC</u>

Sinead O'Brien  
Drumsheel Upper  
Cong  
Co Mayo  
F31 CX37

Article 28 & 35

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT of SUBMISSION or OBSERVATION on PLANNING APPLICATION

*This is an Important Document*

KEEP THIS DOCUMENT SAFELY. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO AN BORD PLEANALA IF YOU WISH TO APPEAL THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING AUTHORITY. IT IS THE ONLY FORM OF EVIDENCE WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTED BY AN BORD PLEANALA THAT A SUBMISSION OR OBSERVATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY ON THE PLANNING APPLICATION.

PLANNING AUTHORITY NAME: Mayo County Council  
PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE NO. P25/60055

A submission/observation in writing, has been received from: Sinead O'Brien on 06/03/2025 in relation to the above planning application.

The appropriate fee of €20.00 has been paid. (Fee not applicable to prescribed bodies)

The submission/observation is in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2006 and will be taken into account by the planning authority in its determination of the planning application.

*Mary Gordon*

Mary Gordon  
Head of Planning Administration

**Mayo County Council**

Date: 06/03/2025

Planning Authority Stamp



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



Planning and Development Section  
Áras and Chontae, Castlebar, Co. Mayo  
www.mayo.ie | 0949064000

Ref No: **P25/60055**

Sinead O'Brien  
Drumsheel Upper  
Cong  
Co Mayo  
F31 CX37

**RE: McGraths Limestone Works Ltd. intend to apply for permission for development at Cregaree, Cong, Co. Mayo.**

**The development will consist of the deepening of 19 ha. of the existing permitted quarry extraction area (Plan File Ref. No. 20/77: ABP-308748-20 & Plan File Ref. No. PL16.SU0132: QD16.QD0009) from 5 mOD to -12 mOD; Landscaping and restoration of the site; All associated ancillary facilities/works. The applicant is seeking a 25-year permission as part of the planning application.**

**The planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. at Cregaree Cong Co. Mayo**

A Chara,

With reference to the above, I enclose herewith a copy of Decision made by the Chief Executive/Director of Services which was issued to **McGraths Limestone Works Limited** for your information.

Mise, le meas,

---

Mary Gordon  
Head of Planning Administration

Enc.

22/04/2025, 11:46

Gmail - Mayo County Council - Planning Section Delivery Notification



Sinead O'Brien <sineadobrien0@gmail.com>

---

## Mayo County Council - Planning Section Delivery Notification

2 messages

---

**Fiona Foy** <FFOY@mayococo.ie>  
To: Sinead O'Brien <sineadobrien0@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 6, 2025 at 10:47 AM

Your e-mail to the Mayo County Council Planning Office is hereby acknowledged, and is receiving attention.

Planning Office  
Ground Floor  
Mayo County Council  
Aras an Chontae  
The Mall  
Castlebar.

Phone: (094)- 9047204  
Email: Planning@mayococo.ie  
Opening Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Email Disclaimer Text | Séanadh Ríomhphoist

---

**Sinead O'Brien** <sineadobrien0@gmail.com>  
To: Fiona Foy <FFOY@mayococo.ie>

Thu, Mar 6, 2025 at 11:46 AM

Thanks Fiona, if I'm unavailable on 0857583862 can you please call my husband Kevin Murphy on 086 469 5444.

All the best,  
Sinead  
[Quoted text hidden]

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

22/04/2025

My name is Sinead O'Brien. I live at 1 Drumsheel Upper, Cong, Co. Mayo F31CX37.

I made an objection to the planning application under file number 2560055, McGraths Limestone Works Limited and am appealing the decision by Mayo County Council. Ref No: P25/60055.

I originally learned of this planning application days before the deadline as the application was submitted during a power and communications outage which only resolved in the locality in the middle of March. This is why only a few objections were made in the community, most people were unaware of the application.

Having read through the EIAR, I am not satisfied that the environmental impact assessment takes into regard the health and safety of the surrounding households living in the area, particularly in the context of fine dust exposure which may carry radon and other harmful substances.

The report only made assessments for worker safety. They have not demonstrated that the expansion of this quarry and deepening of the blasting zone will not have negative health impacts on nearby households.

When it comes to dust, reliance on rainfall is not enough security when there are periods of the year when there is little to no rain. We have just experienced several weeks with little to no rainfall. As our climate continues to change, we cannot rely on what was historically typical rainfall as a measure to curtail the spread of dust. Reliance on biological measures such as tree planting to limit the spread of dust is also inadequate. I can see the trees in question and they currently have few leaves and so are not providing any effective filtration of any dust. They are thin spindly trees, it is insulting to our intelligence to put forward that these are doing anything to mitigate the spread of harmful dust.

Mayo County Council have granted approval with certain restrictions, including that vehicles should be washed to remove dust. This is a token measure. None of the restrictions listed by Mayo Council include measuring airborne dust beyond the quarry boundaries. I am submitting that dust emissions should also be measured outside the quarry boundaries and the community should have access to this data to assess their own safety.

I also object to condition 18 i.e. "Should the need arise during the lifetime of this permission, the developer shall obtain the agreement of Mayo County Council for a revised Environmental Monitoring Plan."

Firstly, the need for environmental monitoring is absolutely required and should be implemented from the outset, not as the need arises. Secondly, McGrath's

Limestone Works should not have any control over the Environmental Monitoring Plan or in what agency or company is selected to carry out this monitoring. Environmental Monitoring should be carried out by an independent body such as the Environmental Protection Agency or some other independent organisation, not chosen by McGrath's Limestone Works or Mayo County Council. The monitoring locations should extend beyond the boundary of the quarry, particularly for airborne dust and vibration levels as these are both issues that regularly exceed the regulated limitations in the neighbourhood and are not being captured in the Environmental Impact Assessments that are paid for by McGrath's Limestone Works. Thirdly, the community should have regular access to the data and environmental assessments that are carried out. I would propose that the local community might even have a role in selecting the organisation that is contracted to monitor the quarry.

The conclusion that this expansion will have no impact on traffic in the village and surrounding area is also problematic. Just recently, Mayo County Council published a public consultation process to further develop plans for a relief road in Cong. The reasons given by local councillors is that it is needed for McGraths quarry HGV vehicles and other HGVs heading to the sawmill in Cornamona. This demonstrates awareness that the continuing operation of the quarry even at its current capacity is having a negative impact on traffic, public health and safety and local roads.

The EIAR mentions that there is a risk of air pollution from McGraths HGV vehicles and from dust being spread in transport. While Cong Primary School is mentioned as a receptor for the purposes of a desktop study, there does not appear to be any data collection carried out at the school to study the air quality or radon levels in the school currently.

The condition that the quarry is permitted to operate between 0700 hours and 1800 hours, Monday to Saturday is completely unreasonable. Saturdays should be off limits. People who work from home or who operate B&Bs in the area are plagued by the sound of blasting and HGV traffic on our roads throughout the week. We need our weekends free of noise and blasting. It should be agreed in writing that no blasting can take place before noon on any weekday and no heavy activity at all (blasting or movement of HGVs in and out) should take place at the quarry on Saturdays or public holidays.

The 25 year license is contrary to Ireland's legal obligation and commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and the planning application submitted by McGraths Limestone Works Limited goes against National Law under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

It is time that resources are spent recycling building material and old rubber tyres for repairing and building new roads. Perhaps Mayo County Council should look into using oyster shells as a limestone substitute for construction as shells are also made of calcium carbonate and are an excellent carbon store.

Kind Regards,  
Sinead

*Sinead O'Brien*