

File With

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SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal No

ABP- 322787

Defer Re O/H

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Having considered the contents of the submission dated/received 13/7/25 from Niamh Cullen O'Reilly I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 be/not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s):

no new material information

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage.

[Checked box]

Section 131 to be invoked — allow 2/4 weeks for reply.

[Empty box]

Signed

Dave W. Call

Date

06/08/25

EO

Signed

[Empty box]

Date

[Empty box]

SEO/SAO

M

Please prepare BP — Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached submission.

To

[Empty box]

Task No

[Empty box]

Allow 2/3/4 weeks

BP

Signed

[Empty box]

Date

[Empty box]

EO

Signed

[Empty box]

Date

[Empty box]

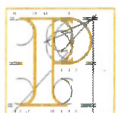
AA

Date

L2D 15/7

LDG-081391-25

D, setal BDL0



An Coimisiún Pleanála

Planning Appeal Online Observation

Online Reference
NPA-OBS-004802

Online Observation Details

Contact Name
Niamh Cullen O'Reilly

Lodgement Date
13/07/2025 14:28:19

Case Number / Description
322787

Payment Details

Payment Method
Online Payment

Cardholder Name
Niamh Cullen

Payment Amount
€50.00

Processing Section

S.131 Consideration Required

Yes — See attached 131 Form

N/A — Invalid

Signed

Date

18/7/25

Fee Refund Requisition

Please Arrange a Refund of Fee of

€

Lodgement No

LDG—

Reason for Refund

Documents Returned to Observer

Yes No

Request Emailed to Senior Executive Officer for Approval

Yes No

Signed

Date

Finance Section

Payment Reference

ch_3RkPx1B1CW0EN5FC1C7nxHI7

Checked Against Fee Income Online

EO/AA (Accounts Section)

Amount

€

Refund Date

Authorised By (1)

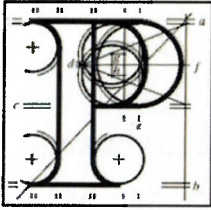
SEO (Finance)

Authorised By (2)

Chief Officer/Director of Corporate Affairs/SAO/Board Member

Date

Date



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

Niamh Cullen O'Reilly

(b) Address

Ardaprior Lisgriffin Co.Cork P51F4A7

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

N/A

(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)

Cork County Council

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

(for example: ABP-300000-19)

322787

(c) Planning authority register reference number

(for example: 18/0123)

245503

(d) Location of proposed development

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

Polnareagha, Ardskeagh, Tullacondra, Crougta, Kilmaclenine, Ballyclogh,
Knockaunavaddreen, , Copestown, Ballybeg, Baltydaniel East, Twopothouse,
Caurraghakerry, Co. Cork

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.

To the Secretary of An Bord Pleanala

I write to you today to advise you of my steadfast objection to the proposed wind farm consisting of 9 enormous wind turbines and associated high voltage cable as per planning reference number 245503.

This is a rural community that boasts prime agricultural land, is an area rich in heritage and archaeological significance, and has a wildlife that is diverse and vulnerable to the adverse effects that humans impose upon their habitat.

I would like to say that I am a string advocate for change, I understand the requirement to protect our planet by changing our ways, but we must carefully consider the changes that we implement to ensure that these are not short term actions that will result in long term regret, we have in Ireland a sad history of fostering and allowing behaviours and actions that negatively impact our people for generations, we must not make the same mistake. I agree with Green Energy but I do not agree with the proposed location of this site. It is unsuitable for this project and you An Bord Pleanala are the gatekeepers and I implore you to listen to the community and understand that we are rejecting this windfarm based on the absolute unsuitability of the location.

I have observed the following which details the reasons why this farm should not proceed, as well documented supporting materials on the community group appeal lodged by Solicitor Joe Noonan

1) Health Implications of Wind Turbines

I have lived with chronic tinnitus for over 15 years, a condition so debilitating that I wear hearing aids to help manage it. My tinnitus affects

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my sleep and overall well-being and is **highly sensitive to external noise**. Any further intrusion — particularly from continuous, low-frequency, or amplitude-modulated noise — risks **exacerbating my condition**, which is already difficult to live with on a daily basis.

Wind turbine noise is not ordinary noise. It includes **amplitude modulation** and **low-frequency sound**, both of which are now widely documented as **problematic and intrusive**. I have deep concerns that exposure to such noise will **further deteriorate my health** — not only physically but mentally — as I do not know how my body and mind will cope with the added stress. This is not theoretical for me; it is **my lived reality**, and my future well-being is at stake.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has acknowledged in its **2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines** that wind turbine noise can pose health risks. (Refer to **Tab 20 of the Group Appeal**.)

Furthermore, exposure to this type of noise has been legally recognised in Ireland as a **nuisance**. The **High Court judgments in Byrne & Moorhead v ABO Wind** and **Webster v Meenacloghspar** clearly establish that wind turbine noise can **cause real harm to health and well-being**, even when turbines are operating within permitted planning guidelines.

The Board now has a duty to weigh these legal precedents and scientific findings. If this development goes ahead, and my health deteriorates further as a result, the **consequences for me are unquantifiable**. I ask that this be taken seriously, as it is **not just about noise levels** — it is **about people's lives**, and in this case, mine.

This project proposes the construction of **nine 175-metre-high turbines**, situated in a **valley landscape**. This topography can

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amplify and trap sound, particularly low-frequency and modulated noise, which carries further in such conditions.

As the wind passes through each of these massive structures, **can the Board guarantee** that the resulting noise will **not** impact people like me — those living with hearing conditions such as **tinnitus** and **noise sensitivity**?

If no such guarantee can be given — and no long-term health impact study has been conducted on people with **auditory vulnerabilities** — then this application should not proceed. It would be **irresponsible and potentially harmful** to approve a development without first safeguarding the health of vulnerable individuals like myself.

The application should be refused on this basis.

2) Impact on Wildlife in Community

The **red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) is a protected species in Ireland.**

Covered under the Wildlife Act 1976 — it is **ILLEGAL** to harm or disturb red squirrels or their nests.

Any development that affects their habitat must go through strict ecological assessment.

Presence of red squirrels = valid legal basis to challenge wind farm proposals.

Please see Photos attached which were taken just this month.

We have a vibrant and active population of red squirrels inhabiting the area This area includes mature hedgerows and woodland corridors which form part of the natural habitat for the protected red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*). Red squirrels are known to range and disperse over distances

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exceeding 2km, particularly in fragmented rural landscapes like ours. The impact of construction, habitat disruption, noise, and vibration on this sensitive species and its nesting areas must be fully assessed. We contend that this development risks violating protections under the Wildlife Act 1976 and urge An Bord Pleanála to apply the precautionary principle."

The application should be refused on this basis.

3) Archaeological impact

The proposed development would injure or interfere with a historic monument which stands registered in the Register of Historic Monuments under section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1987 , or which is situated in an archaeological area so registered. As per the group appeal document - The area, both on its own and especially taken together with the potential Turbine Delivery Routes and Grid Connection Route, is rich in archaeological heritage. The proposed development will seriously interfere with the integrity of that heritage, with mitigation measures that are wholly inadequate.

The application should be refused on this basis.

4) Visual impact, landscape character

I have attached photographs taken from our home and surrounding area that clearly illustrate the extent to which this landscape is already impacted by wind turbines

To the **left of our property**, there is already a **dense concentration of turbines** (see attached photos). To the **right**, yet more turbines dominate the view. And now, with this proposed development, turbines are to be placed **directly in front of us**. This means we will

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.

be **surrounded on three sides**, visually enclosed by towering 175m industrial structures.

This proposal represents an **intolerable visual intrusion**. It is deeply **unfair, disproportionate**, and **fundamentally alters the character** of our rural environment. What was once a tranquil, open landscape will become a **heavily industrialised zone**, erasing the sense of place and peace we currently enjoy.

Wind turbines of **175 metres in height — taller than the Spire in Dublin — placed in a valley setting**, will dominate the skyline from every angle. This valley will act as a **natural amphitheatre**, not only magnifying noise but also making the turbines **inescapably visible** from our homes, gardens, and local roads.

The **cumulative visual impact** must not be underestimated. Existing turbines already impact our daily visual environment; to add more is **excessive and oppressive**. This development, if granted, would result in what planners call "**turbine saturation**", where the volume and scale of turbines overwhelm the landscape's ability to absorb them.

We urge the Board to consider the **County Development Plan**, which seeks to protect the **visual amenity of rural landscapes**, and to prevent overdevelopment in sensitive areas. The impact here is not theoretical — it is **visually, emotionally, and psychologically real**. This development will not just be seen; it will be **felt** every day by residents forced to live beneath it.

This is not a balanced approach to renewable energy. It is a **disproportionate burden** being placed on one small rural community. No landscape — and no group of people — should be expected to absorb this level of visual and industrial encroachment.

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.

We respectfully ask An Bord Pleanála to **refuse this application** on the grounds of:

- Unacceptable cumulative visual impact
- Loss of rural landscape character
- Disregard for residential amenity
- Disproportionate encirclement of dwellings by turbines
- Conflict with local and national planning objectives

I have reviewed the County Development Plan's Wind Energy Strategy and note that our land is marked as 'open to consideration' for turbine development. However, this policy was adopted **without any public consultation**, contrary to the requirements of Section 11 of the Planning & Development Act. As such, I submit that the entire WES zoning—including its classification of our property—is procedurally flawed and should not be relied upon as a basis for this proposal.

The application should be refused on this basis.

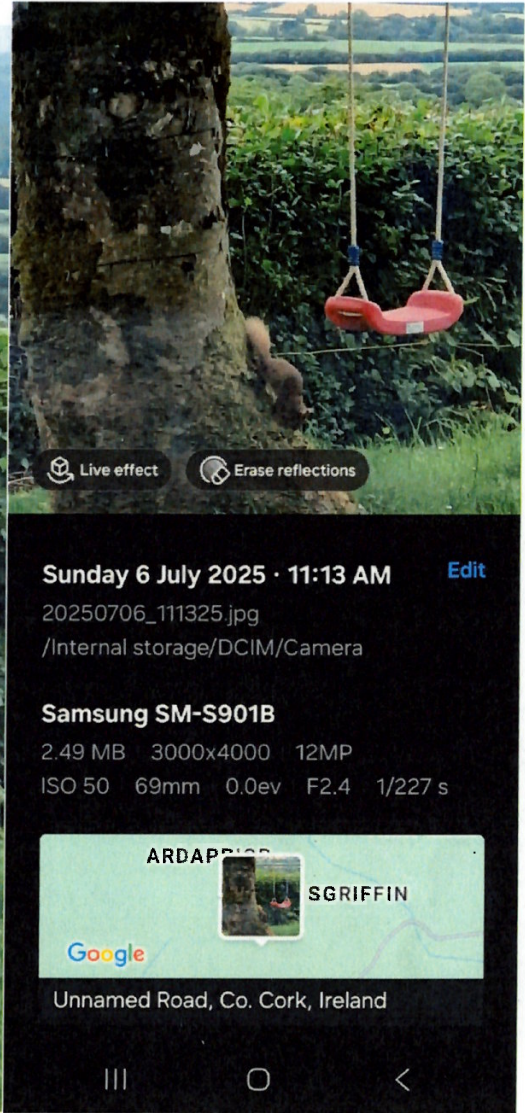
5) **Preliminary point on illegality of Council decision**

“The community was deliberately denied any opportunity to comment on the additional material submitted by the Applicant under the RFI Request, or on the commentary on it made by those whom the Council chose to copy it to. As a result, members of the public who may have wished to participate were excluded from the process.

We consider that this exclusion decision was unlawful and contrary to fair procedures and public participation rights. As a result, the Council permission decision in our view is unlawful.”

The application should be refused on this basis.

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.



We have foxes, pheasants, buzzards, kestrels, bats, red squirrels, hares, that show up on a daily basis, we have to fight for their survival, we have to nurture and protect their habitats, we are a small nation and our wildlife are critical to our eco system, we must protect their future which in turn protects our future.





The red light at night on all of these turbines is already intrusive on my home – this new proposed site will be situated to the front of our home almost completely surrounding us – this is an unfair burden on us and the application should be refused



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.

