24th October 2025

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough St,
Rotunda,
Dublin 1, D01 V902

Our reference no: 25-99BCHL01

RE: Proposed Windfarm development of 7 Turbines, 110kV substation and associated works within the townlands of Leitrim, Lumville, Ballinla, Clarkeville, Ballyfore Big, Ballyfore Little, Ballyeakin and Ballykilleen, in (Coolestown By) Co. Offaly

An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PAX19.323579

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, BallyM Charolais Herd, Ballymoran Farm, Edenderry wish to make the following objections against the above SID application for the following reasons outlined below and can confirm that our property is located as per the attached map.

This objection should also be read in conjunction with the objection submitted by Colm and Louise Quinn and in particular the very detailed and technical report attached to same. It should also be read in conjunction with the Peer Review of Proposed Ballinla Wind Farm Planning Application prepared by Huson & Associates, W Les Huson BSc(Hons) MSc CPhys MInstP MIoA MAAS which is attached to the same objection of Colm and Louise Quinn. These reports go to the heart of both the validity of the application in the first instance and major technical considerations and reason as to why the application should be refused.

BallyM Charolais Herd is a family owned and run company and both generations of the family are involved in the day-to-day activities of BallyM Charolais Herd. It is envisaged that in the coming years the younger generation of the family, Adam, Emma and Isabelle Quinn, will assume ownership and responsibility for the continued management of the BallyM Charolais Herd, Ballymoran Farm and Lumville Stud Farm. As both farms are now under the control of the same family the livestock from both farms will interchange and use each farm as if both farms were a single holding. Therefore, all of the very serious concerns raised regarding the concerning risks to horses, and in particular to elite thoroughbred races horses, are all fully relevant to Ballymoran Farm. These concerns and objections have been dealt with in detail in the objection submitted by LCIEA Ltd for Lumville Stud Farm.

These farms represent decades of dedicated breeding, land stewardship, and agricultural excellence. Ballinla Wind Farm would present a serious threat to the long-term viability and succession of the family enterprise, as the development would fundamentally alter the landscape, environmental conditions, and safe working environment upon which the future of these farms depends.

The BallyM Charolais Herd has a proud history that began 30 years ago in Moate, Co. Westmeath. BallyM Charolais relocated to Ballymoran House, Edenderry, 20 years ago to continue developing the genetics of the herd on high nature value land. Over this time, we have grown BallyM into one of Ireland's leading pedigree Charolais herds, with carefully selected genetics imported from France and the UK.

Our BallyM Charolais breeding programme has achieved national recognition, with animals exported to Great Britain, Scotland, France, Spain, Italy, and Tunisia as well as having bulls standing at AI stations. More recently, semen from BallyM has been exported to the African continent, where our genetics are setting new records for the Charolais breed in Botswana.

BallyM Charolais Herd which consists of over 300 animals, including BallyM MYLOVE, our leading stock bull as well as 4 additional French imported stock bulls, BallyM SUBLIME, BallyM SALOUP, BallyM ROYALE and BallyM ROMEO reside predominantly at Ballymoran Farm, they summer graze the lands at Lumville Stud Farm, both the very fields that would be directly affected by the wake effects, noise, and environmental changes caused by the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm.

Animals of this calibre are highly sensitive to changes in their environment, and even small disturbances can impact fertility, behaviour, and overall health. The introduction of large wind turbines may cause continuous low-frequency noise, vibration, and altered air movement (wake effects), all of which could heighten stress levels in breeding animals.

For herds or bloodlines such as the BallyM Charolais Herd that have been developed over generations, such environmental stressors could compromise years of careful genetic selection and investment. In addition, the constant movement of turbine blades, combined with increased noise and visual disturbance, may unsettle animals, making handling and breeding more difficult and less predictable.

We are extremely concerned that such a development could disrupt the sensitive environment and high-welfare conditions that underpin the health, fertility, and international reputation of this herd, built carefully over decades.

We would emphasise that our herd is not “a typical commercial cattle herd” but a high-value pedigree Charolais breeding herd, which have greater sensitivities (including stress, reproduction, behaviour) given the value and sensitivity of our herd The risks associated with noise, flicker, ground vibration are simply not risks that we can adopt a “wait and see” approach on. Damage to the health and welfare of such a herd built up over 30 years would simply be devasting for the herd. For these reasons and in light of the known sensitivities of high-value pedigree livestock and the absence of conclusive research on the long-term effects of wind turbine operation on animal health and fertility, we strongly believe that there is no alternative other than to seek the refusal of this proposed development.

This herd represents decades of selective breeding and genetic advancement, and any decline in reproductive performance, growth rates, or overall condition during or following the construction and operation of the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm would constitute a significant loss to both the family enterprise and the wider pedigree livestock sector.

To ensure a clear and objective baseline, we have engaged our veterinary surgeon, who has attended to the BallyM Charolais Herd for the past 20 years, to provide a comprehensive current health report on the herd. A summary of his findings are in a letter attached to this objection and his report will serve as an independent record of herd health and as a reference point for assessing any subsequent changes. In this report, it is stated by the Veterinary Surgeon *“I have a number of clients who are concerned about the performance of their herd following the installation of windmills near their grazing animals. I have one client where the grazing habits of his cattle have been dramatically changed due to an adjacent windmill – the cattle will not graze in the fields near the windmill and are rarely seen there. In conclusion, as the vet to this herd I am concerned on the effect this wind farm development will have on the animals.”*

It is envisaged that in the coming years, Adam, Emma and Isabelle Quinn will assume ownership and responsibility for the continued management of the BallyM Charolais Herd, Ballymoran Farm, and Lumville Stud Farm. These farms represent decades of dedicated breeding, land stewardship, and agricultural excellence within the family. Ballinla Wind Farm would present a serious threat to the long-term viability and succession of the family enterprise, as the development would fundamentally alter the landscape, environmental conditions, and safe working environment upon which the future of these farms depends.

The lands at Ballymoran Farm in addition to those at Lumville Stud Farm, support a rich and diverse range of wildlife, including several protected species. Regular sightings and nesting activity have been recorded for long-eared owls and kestrels, both of which are species afforded protection under national and EU wildlife legislation. In addition, the lands are home to pheasants and a variety of common but ecologically important

species such as rabbits, hares, badgers, and foxes. The established mature trees, and traditional field boundaries provide vital foraging, nesting, and shelter habitats. Any large-scale disturbance, such as that associated with the construction and operation of the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm, poses a risk of habitat disruption, displacement, and long-term behavioural change within these resident wildlife populations.

As our daily work environment at Ballymoran Farm is agricultural, we spend prolonged periods outdoors and in close proximity to the areas of the proposed turbines. We therefore have serious concerns about the potential health impacts of the Ballinla Wind Farm on those working and living on our farm. In particular, we are concerned about the possible effects of turbine wake phenomena, including changes in local air movement, turbulence, and temperature that may influence livestock conditions and the comfort and wellbeing of people working on the land. These effects, together with noise and shadow flicker exposure, create uncertainty and anxiety regarding the cumulative impact of the development on our physical health, mental wellbeing, and ability to safely and comfortably carry out normal farming activities.

Our farmland at Ballymoran, Edenderry lies in an area of high nature value grassland (HNV) characteristics—namely lightly-improved grassland, hedgerows and variety of soil types—and has been managed for decades under a low-intensity grazing and pasture regime to support both high-quality livestock and biodiversity. The proposed Ballinla Wind Farm development threatens to compromise this land's ecological integrity: the construction phase, access roads, changes in drainage and wind/turbulence patterns could damage the delicate balance of semi-natural pasture that underpins the HNV status and thus reduce its biodiversity, soil health and ecosystem services. Because HNV grassland is recognised under national and EU policy as farmland of special value for nature conservation and sustainable agriculture, we respectfully submit that the potential impact on this land should be a material consideration in the planning assessment.

The Dodon River, which flows into the River Barrow, is recognised as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) due to its importance as a spawning habitat for fish. The river traverses our forestry lands at Ballymoran Farm and now lies within the area proposed for the siting of wind turbines. In the past, we had sought permission, to carry out maintenance and cleaning works on the river. However, these efforts were not permitted by Euroforest Ireland because of the presence of protected spawning fish within this section of the watercourse.
The proposed development of the Ballinla Wind Farm poses a significant risk to this sensitive aquatic environment, as turbine construction and associated works could lead to sedimentation, increased surface runoff, and vibration impacts, all of which have the potential to disturb or damage the spawning habitat and the wider ecological integrity of the Dodon River system.

We are also deeply concerned about the potential impacts of the Ballinla Wind Farm on our forestry. The construction of large turbines and associated access routes could physically disturb and damage existing woodland, including root systems, soil stability, and drainage patterns that have developed naturally over time.
Once operational, the turbines could significantly alter local wind patterns within the forest, affecting tree growth, stability, and moisture balance. These changes may also increase noise levels within the forestry area due to wind turbulence, creating an unfamiliar and potentially disruptive environment for wildlife. Such disturbances could drive birds, bats, and other animals away from their established habitats, reducing biodiversity and altering the natural balance that the forestry currently supports.

During our meeting with Statkraft on Friday 5th September 2025, when we raised the subject of Groundwater Wells, Statkraft's representatives had little or no knowledge of any investigation works being undertaken regarding same. The lands surrounding Ballymoran House and farm and Lumville Stud Farm are served by groundwater wells, which provide the primary source of water for agricultural operations. The construction and ongoing operation of wind turbines have the potential to adversely affect these wells through ground disturbance, vibration, and alteration of natural drainage and groundwater flow patterns. Activities such as excavation for turbine foundations, cable trenching, and the use of heavy machinery can increase the risk of sediment infiltration, contamination, or changes in water table levels. In addition, long-term turbine operation may contribute to subtle but cumulative impacts on groundwater stability. It is therefore essential that baseline water quality and yield assessments are undertaken and that robust protection and monitoring measures are implemented to safeguard these wells and the surrounding aquifer but we have no information to show that any of this has been put in place.

Under both EU and Irish law, groundwater resources are afforded a high level of protection. The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) require member states to prevent the deterioration of groundwater quality and ensure the sustainable use of aquifers. These obligations are transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) and subsequent amendments, and are implemented through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) Groundwater Protection Scheme. The GSI framework emphasises the safeguarding of private wells from pollution, changes in hydrogeology, and excessive abstraction. In the context of the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm, any works that could alter groundwater flow, introduce sediment or contaminants, or affect recharge zones must therefore be subject to detailed hydrogeological assessment and continuous monitoring to ensure full compliance with these regulatory protections.

We have spoken to a large number of our neighbours and the community and engagement with Statkraft appears to have ranged from non-existent to leaflet drops or

in some cases where engagement did happen it was entirely satisfactory or in some cases disrespectful. Meaningful community engagement would of course have been welcomed but in the absence of it we have been left with trying to make sense of it for ourselves and making an objection with extremely limited information at a very late stage.

We recognise the importance of green energy but this area surely cannot be expected to carry far more than its fair share and to now be expected to carry even more of this share.

Further to the above I have the following further concerns:

1. The visual affects of such large turbines is simply a matter of fact and the utter proliferation of such large turbines in the immediately surrounding area is something that does not appear to exist elsewhere. We recognise the importance of green energy, but this area surely cannot be expected to carry far more than its fair share and to now be expected to carry even more of this share.

2. The red lights at nighttime will be a significant issue for the dwelling houses on our farm and again the cumulative effect of this together with existing red lights in the vicinity is something that we feel is very unfair for us to have to tolerate forever and extending into the lifetimes of our children.

3. Due to the proximity of the turbines and the number of them we are extremely concerned regarding the wake affect on us and the future viability of elite equine stock on our lands.

4. Is the future development of the our farm now to be effectively sterilised due to the presence of the windfarm either by refusal of planning permission or the simple desire of people and the next generation not wanting to live here?

We are aware that there is cross community support against this development, and fully support the objection of our neighbour's, including those with very significant health, equine and animal welfare concerns.

We truly believe there is nothing to recommend this application to us or to the people of this area and we call on An Comisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this application for all of the reasons outlined above.

Yours Sincerely.

BallyM Charolais Herd

_____ Date: 24/10/2025

BallyM Charolais Herd,
Ballymoran Farm, Edenderry
BALLYMORAN HOUSE
BALLYMORAN
EDENDERRY
CO. OFFALY
R45 FD37

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23.10.2025

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to state that our practice have been providing veterinary services to the Quinn family of Ballymoran house Edenderry Co. Offaly for over 20 years. In that time Louise Colm and their family have invested heavily in both money and time to build up one of the top Pedigree Charolais herds in the country. Their herd of over 300 cattle has a very high genetic merit made possible by consistent purchase of stock from the top herds in France and Ireland and repeated embyro transfer programmes.

This herd's health is monitored regularly and is currently of a very high standard. Pedigree Charolais cattle are highly productive livestock but any change in diet, management or their environment can have severe consequences for the herd.

I have a number of clients who are concerned about the performance of their herd following the installation of windmills near their grazing animals. I have one client where the grazing habits of his cattle have been dramatically changed due to an adjacent windmill - the cattle will not graze in the fields near the windmill and are rarely seen there.

In conclusion as the vet to this herd I am concerned on the effect this wind farm development will have on the animals.

Yours sincerely

John Drum MVB
Practice Principal

Ballinla Wind Farm

ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE

2km Buffer outlined Blue, 1km Buffer outlined Magenta

Location of dwelling house

Turbines

Substation

Site Entrance

TDR

1km Buffer

T1 T2 T3 T4 T5 T6 T7

LCIEA Landholding shaded Blue (Lumville Stud)

Colm & Louise Quinn Landholding shaded Blue (Ballymoran Farm)

0 0.75 1.5 3 km

Statkraft