Name: Claire Murray-Smdle
Address: Clonmore
Edenderry

(0. Offaly
Eircode: R45xR58

Date:

21 - 10 - 2025.

Subject: Submission on Ballinla Wind Farm (Ref. 323579) - Concerns Regarding Noise, Health Impacts, and Compliance with Environmental Assessment Requirements

Opening:

I wish to make this submission in relation to the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm (An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference 323579). This development raises serious concerns regarding the potential adverse effects on local residents' health and wellbeing, particularly in relation to noise, vibration, and shadow flicker, and whether the Environmental Impact Assessment Report adequately addresses these issues in accordance with EU and WHO health protection standards.

Absence of a baseline health assessment

Given the absence of any formal baseline health assessment, the undersigned community members wish to confirm that, should this application be granted, we will be undertaking an independent baseline study of the community's health. This will be carried out to establish a verifiable record of local health prior to any operation of the proposed turbines, in line with the precautionary approach recommended by the World Health Organisation (2018) Environmental Noise Guidelines and the Department of Health in April 2014 (letter enclosed).

Legal Basis

Under the EU Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), all projects likely to have significant effects on the health. human effects on of assessment an include must environment Article 3(1) of the Directive explicitly requires that the EIA identifies, describes and assesses the direct and indirect significant effects of a project on:

"population and human health; biodiversity; land, soil, water, air and climate; material assets; cultural heritage; and the interaction between these factors."

This means that human health cannot be limited to simple noise or shadow flicker measurements — it requires a systematic Health Impact Assessment (HIA) addressing potential physiological and psychological effects.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region (2018) further reinforce this, stating that decision-makers should:

"conduct health impact assessments that include environmental noise as a risk factor, whenever possible within an environmental impact assessment."

Accordingly, any Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a wind energy development must:

- 1. Assess impacts on human health as required by the EIA Directive; and
- 2. Incorporate or be accompanied by a **Health Impact Assessment**, consistent with WHO 2018 recommendations.

Failure to include a proper HIA would therefore constitute **non-compliance with both EU and WHO guidance** on environmental assessment and health protection.

Closing:

We respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála take full account of these health-related concerns and the absence of an appropriate baseline assessment before determining this application. The protection of public health must be a core consideration in the assessment of this and all similar developments.

Regards,

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Community Petition to HSE Public Health

Request for a Baseline Health Assessment

To:

Health Service Executive
Health Centre
Midland Regional Hospital at Tullamore
Arden Road
Tullamore
Co. Offaly
R35 HP73

Subject: Request for a Baseline Health Assessment in

We, the undersigned residents of Leitrim, Lumville, Ballinla, Clarkeville, Ballyfore Big, Ballyfore Little, Ballyeakin and Ballykilleen, (Coolestown) Co. Offaly, are deeply concerned about the potential health impacts arising from existing and proposed wind farm developments in our community.

Numerous residents living near similar developments in neighbouring areas have reported significant adverse health effects, including sleep disturbance, stress, and other symptoms associated with prolonged exposure to wind turbine noise and vibration.

In line with the precautionary principle and the World Health Organisation (WHO) 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines, we respectfully request that the HSE Public Health Department initiate or support a baseline health assessment of our community. This assessment would establish a record of the community's health prior to any new or expanded wind farm operations and provide essential data to inform public health protection measures.

We believe such action is consistent with the HSE's responsibility to protect public health and to provide evidence-based advice to planning and environmental authorities.

We, the undersigned, support this request:

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