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23 October 2025

Subject: Submission on Ballinla Wind Farm (Ref. 323579) – Concerns Regarding Noise, Health Impacts, and Compliance with Planning Permission

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 and the loss of amenity.

Noth Offaly already has a high concentration of wind farms in the Edenderry and surrounding areas. The Ballina Wind Farm, if constructed, would encircle parts of the community and local amenities. The location of some of the turbines in close proximity to the Grand Canal would permanently damage the natural amenity by introducing an unnatural industrial noise source in the area. This noise source would have a negative impact on the wellbeing of local residents and noise-sensitive people in the community. The adjacent area of the canal would become a no-go area for people wishing to avoid, the noise of an industrial wind turbine, The loss of quiet, natural outdoor space will have a negative impact on mental health and wellbeing. Windfarms by their nature make noise of different types and frequencies which cannot be avoided.

There have been ongoing complaints from many residents living near to other wind farms within County Offaly that are operated by Statkraft – the company involved in this application. The complaints relate to noise from the turbines and the health impacts from that noise. For example, the Cloghan Wind Farm, has caused over 200 complaints over 18 months, with little response from either Offaly County Council or Statkraft, reference <https://www.offalyexpress.ie/news/midlandtribune/1864117/offaly-wind-farm-is-causing-serious-health-impacts-claim-residents.html>

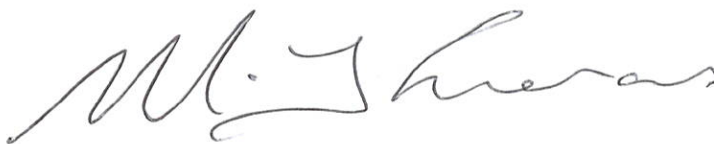
Additionally, Offaly County Council previously issued an enforcement warning letter to Statkraft regarding their Meenwaun Wind Farm. However, this farm continues to operate unabated, and residents are still suffering from noise and health problems as a result.

The Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland (December 2016) states:

“The promoter shall submit an annual report to the local authority of all communications and information provided, queries received, responses to same and recording if these are ongoing or resolved, which will be published on a dedicated register available online. A Local Authority will take into consideration their performance of these obligations when deciding on new applications by the promoter elsewhere in the county..”

I request that this application be refused in line with the Code of Practice mentioned above, and given the fact that the ongoing complaints made against the other developments operated by Statkraft within Offaly have had a lack of response from both Offaly County Council and the developer. Compliance and enforcement considerations regarding existing installations should be a prerequisite for considering new applications given the compliance issues regarding the current complaints.

Regards,



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