



An
Bord
Pleanála

Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's 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:

(a) Observer's name

Peter Andrew Doolan

(b) Observer's postal address

Ballybrittan Rhode Co Offaly R35WP93

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

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The agent at the postal address in Part 2

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Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Bord Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**
(for example: 300000)

323579.

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Proposed Windfarm at Ballinla (Offaly) with the development of 7 Turbines, 110kV substation and associated cabling.

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

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

Townlands of Leitrim, Lumville, Ballinla, Clarkeville, Ballyfore Big, Ballyfore Little, Ballyeakin and Ballykilleen in North Offaly

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word** limit as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

Hello,

I live with my family and farm in the area of Ballybrittan which is next door to the above proposal with my land 600-700 metres from Turbine 1 2 and 3.

My house is at the 1 km Buffer. I have 3 main concerns, which I offer as observations to allow for better planning of windfarms in the area.

1. Impact on the local environment and the efforts of my fellow small farmers.

The Grand Canal separates the windfarm from land to the north. It is a natural wildlife corridor which nature travels. A new Greenway was put in recent years (Grand canal greenway) which people walk and cycle along and as they do pass by my land and other farmers land to the north and to the south the proposed wind farm. These lands bordering the canal have been of poorer land quality and were traditionally farmed extensively, as rough grazing, woodland or farmed for nature. Under the current CAP environmental schemes rewarded the upkeep of such habitats. In this area there are several Riparian zones, Winter bird covers and Extensive grassland established under ACRES - (which is one such scheme).

Farmers are compensated for completing actions such as these as they deliver a public good. Also of note is that It is an area mapped and identified as a breeding wader zone which dictates certain actions for those

5. Grounds

participating in long term schemes like ACRES. One small example being that I couldn't sow a hedge under ACRES as breeding wader's habitat preference is open grassland. I sow 2 acres of wild bird cover in this area less than 400 metres from Turbine 2.

These areas are important habitats as other areas in North Offaly come under pressure. One pressure is the volume of wind turbines in the area to the North South East and West. Another is when the large holding at Ballinla farm (1090 acre farm) changed land use from tillage to dairying in 2020

When the Greenway came, I helped form a group in 2020 to access community enhancement funds from Offaly County council to allow us put highlight the local nature and bio-diversity of the greenway.

Windfarms are of strategic importance but the areas for nature are important especially pockets left between windfarms that the public can enjoy without disturbing. The turbines T1 T2 and T3 will have an outsized effect on this corridor. I also makes a lot of what I do and intend to do pointless

#2. Inadequate environmental assessment.

With regard to point 1. The environmental impact assessment involved was inadequate. I met a project ecologist Ms Power and Farm Liaison John Lowry at my holding in the summer 2024 to discuss the points made earlier and highlight my concern of the monitoring points and access points for surveys.

5. Grounds

Due to the circular shape of the wind farm and the barriers of the grand canal I offered access through my own land and other third party land for monitoring of the nature I See every day -this offer was not taken up. Later when monitoring was underway by the company Fehily Timoney & Company I spoke to the assessors and noted their positions. Their positions were determined by a desktop exercise and in practice their positions at on public roadsides layby, forestry lanes and a newly started building site of a private dwellings offered no sightlines to give an appropriate assessment.

3. Noise.

Finally on an important matter, I would like you to note my concern over noise pollution. I have visited Cloghan wind farm which is operated by the same company and stood in the same direction where my house will be in relation the proposal (southwest prevailing wind direction) and walked to a distance that will be similar to the distance I can expect. I would class the noise as nuisance noise that vibrates and would keep people (my children) awake at night. Offaly county council is not competent body to deal with noise level regulation as from what I experienced and read from this wind farm in Cloghan. When/if the wind farm is built I expect there would be more unrest (no pun intended) and I would it set out now how Offaly county council intends to act effectively in the future on complaints it will receive and what expertise and powers it has used to date.

Many thanks I hope the above is clear to the reader.

PD

5. Grounds

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.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to [request the Board to hold an oral hearing](#), please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

☐

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

☐

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes