

**Subject case reference: 323699 – Objection to the proposed windfarm development in Shancloon, Co. Galway**

**Introduction**

My name is Cora Keady. I am 30 and live in Dalgan Park, Shrule. This is where I have lived for most of my life. Many generations of my family have lived in this area and I feel a great sense of belonging here. Shrule is a rural community and the scenic topography and fresh air enriches the lives of its inhabitants. Many people in my community, such as my father, are still making their living from farming which is integral to their livelihoods, the local economy and Ireland's food chain. In time, I hope that I will be able to build a home on family land in this area I am deeply concerned that if the proposed windfarm in Shancloon goes ahead, it will damage the natural habitat, clean air, agriculture and prohibit people like myself from being able to build a home to live in their community, near their loved ones.

**Lack of Adequate Noise Monitoring**

The EIAR which was submitted did not include baseline noise monitoring across the Black River from the development despite the fact that many homes, are less than one kilometre away from Turbine no. 2. Without adequate noise monitoring in my area, it is unknown just how much the noise will impact me and others living in this area as well as local wildlife.

**Environmental Impacts**

I am deeply concerned that this development would negatively impact natural wildlife. The development is very close to the Black River which is home to endangered and protected types of birds and fish. I am worried that during the construction process, there will be run off of chemicals into the water which will be harmful to the animals inhabiting it. In addition to this, disturbance of peat in Shancloon will be detrimental to biodiversity. This is in conflict with **EU Birds and Habitats directives**.

I believe it is highly likely that during the construction process, dust from the site will blow over the river to my community which could be detrimental to the health of myself, my family, people in my community, my pets and peoples' livestock. I walk my dogs just across the river from the proposed site on family land and have a pony that regularly grazes this, I am anxious that I

could no longer have my animals there as the construction process could cause them health problems.

In addition, the disruption of peatlands may lead to the flooding of residential homes and agricultural land which will be detrimental to homes, lives and livelihoods.

### **Impact on Residential Planning Permission**

As mentioned above, I am hoping to one day build a house on family land just across the river from the proposed development. If this windfarm is built, there is a possibility that I will be unable to do so due to incoming restrictions on the distance between dwellings and wind turbines exceeding heights of 30m in the proposed Wind Turbine Regulation Bill (2025), shadow flickers and the assessments of property value risks a bank will carry out when considering a mortgage application. This would effectively see that the Shancloon windfarm would be pushing me out of my community as well as disrupting a life which I have been striving to build for myself for numerous years. It is madness to think that in the greatest housing crisis our nation has ever experienced, a development could go ahead which is likely to impede on peoples' abilities to build their own home in their own community. As it is, my future housing is something I stress about frequently, the planning for the site in Shancloon has exacerbated this and I find myself worrying about my future even more.

### **Visual Impact**

The turbines will be visible from my family home, my family's land and most of Shrule. This would be a travesty as this will devalue properties in the area and worse than that, it take away from historical and heritage sites such as Shrule castle and the many ringforts in our area. It will also greatly impede on residents' abilities to enjoy the natural landscape. The turbines will completely demolish the scenic views in the surrounding areas, replacing it with an image and feeling of living in an industrial area. It would hugely detract from peoples' experiences of rural living. I believe this conflicts with the **National Landscape Strategy for Ireland (2015-2025)** which aims to protect the character and heritage of the landscape.

## **Impact on Mental Health**

I work in a caring profession be rewarding, it is often incredibly stressful and emotionally taxing. A key aspect of maintaining a career in caring professions is self-care and looking after one's own mental health. One of the greatest means I have to achieve this is the ability to spend time walking in Brackloon and Brownsisland along the Black river with my dogs. The fresh air, peace, silence, the beauty of the landscape and the ability to see wildlife has had a hugely positive impact on my mental health since I was a teenager. To this day, it is something that benefits my mental health and mood, it helps me to switch off after heavy days in work and means that I can keep going in a career that is needed in our society, but often burns out those who work in the area. If this development goes ahead, I will lose that. The lights and sound from the windfarm won't give me the peace I need to switch off. In addition to that, the landscape will be marred. It is quite difficult to switch off and relax when you are looking at structures 180m tall looming over you. In short, the greatest means I have of looking after my mental health would be taken away from me if a windfarm is built in Shancloon.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project:

- Risks polluting the Black River
- Is detrimental to the mental health of residents
- May cause flooding
- Negatively impacts the ability to provide housing in the area
- Causes destruction of biodiversity and wildlife
- Negatively impacts farming in the area
- Decimates the character of the area

I implore An Coimisiún Pleanála to deny the application for the proposed windfarm in Shancloon.

Yours Sincerely,

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