

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Objection to Shancloon Windfarm – ABP Ref. 323699

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm development (ABP Ref. 323699). I live less than 1km from the proposed site and have spent my entire life in this area.

One of my main concerns relates to the wellbeing of my young son, who has autism. He is highly sensitive to noise and changes in his surroundings. The continuous noise, movement, and flicker from turbines of this scale would cause significant distress and disruption to him. I do not believe that the impact on families with vulnerable individuals such as my son has been adequately considered in this proposal.

I am also a farming contractor and depend on the local road network, particularly the New Line, to carry out my work. I use these roads daily with large agricultural machinery, especially during silage and harvest seasons. The same roads are proposed to be used for transporting turbine components and construction traffic. This will cause major disruption, safety hazards, and delays for local agricultural businesses like mine. I also receive regular deliveries of materials such as plastic to my yard, and these too will be seriously affected by restricted access and congestion caused by construction vehicles.

I am extremely concerned about the impact this development would have on the surrounding bogs, particularly Ironpool and Cloonbar bogs. I have lived beside them all my life and know how soft and wet they are. I cannot understand how the developers could possibly avoid serious environmental damage, or prevent flooding, if they attempt to bring extremely heavy machinery across these bogs or dig them up for turbine bases and access roads. The bogs play a vital role in absorbing rainfall and regulating water flow - disturbing them risks flooding neighbouring lands and homes, as well as destroying valuable habitats.

The visual impact is another major concern. The proposed turbines, at 180 metres high, would dominate the landscape and be visible from my home. I can already see turbines from Moycullen, over 40km away, and from Ballindine. To think of structures of this scale less than 1km from my home is deeply upsetting. They will completely alter the character of this peaceful rural area.

Last summer, I visited a walkway near a winfarm in Cloghan, Co. Offaly, and was shocked by the level of noise from the turbines, even on a calm day. Living with that noise on a daily basis, day and night, would be intolerable.

For these reasons - the potential impact on my son's wellbeing, the severe disruption to my livelihood, the risk to local bogs and flooding, the safety concerns on local roads, and the unacceptable visual and noise impact - I strongly object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm.

There has also been no meaningful consultation with local residents such as myself. Those of us who will be most affected have had no opportunity to engage meaningfully before this stage.

I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development.

Yours faithfully,
Damian Martyn
Cloonteen,
Ironpool,
Kilconly,
Tuam,
Co Galway