

Eimear Gormally

Cloonsheen

Cloghans Hill

Tuam

Co Galway

16/11/2025

Application Number: 323699

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Shancloon Wind Farm development (**Application Number: 323699**) outlined in the planning application. I am a teenager living in Cloonsheen, and this area is my home. I am deeply concerned about the significant negative impact this development will have on our rural community, the local environment, and my personal enjoyment of the area. I spend a considerable amount of my free time exploring the natural beauty of our surroundings. I particularly cherish the **peace and quiet** that defines our rural landscape, a tranquillity that would be irrevocably shattered by the constant hum and visual intrusion of industrial wind turbines. The thought of losing the serene atmosphere that allows me to relax and connect with nature is truly upsetting.

One of my greatest joys is observing the diverse **wildlife** that thrives in our fields, hedgerows, and especially the surrounding bogs and turloughs. I frequently see various bird species, small mammals, and insects, all of which contribute to the rich biodiversity of this area. The construction and operation of wind turbines pose a serious threat to these creatures. Studies have shown that wind farms can cause bird and bat mortality through direct collision with turbine blades, and also through habitat displacement and fragmentation. The noise and vibrations generated by turbines can also disrupt wildlife behaviour, forcing animals to abandon their traditional feeding and breeding grounds. Furthermore, I enjoy **walking in the surrounding bogs**, which are unique and sensitive ecosystems. These bogs are not just beautiful; they are vital carbon sinks and provide a habitat for specialized flora and fauna. The construction of access roads and turbine foundations would inevitably lead to the destruction and degradation of these irreplaceable habitats, impacting both the ecological balance and my ability to enjoy these cherished spaces. The visual impact of these enormous

structures would also be devastating, transforming our picturesque rural landscape into an industrial zone.

My concerns are not merely aesthetic or personal; they are also grounded in legal precedent regarding the nuisance caused by wind farms. I am aware of the **High Court case in Ireland concerning a wind farm in Enniscorthy, County Wexford, where residents successfully argued nuisance due to noise and shadow flicker**. This case highlights the very real and detrimental impact that wind turbines can have on the quality of life for those living nearby. The court found that the noise levels and shadow flicker from the turbines constituted a nuisance, demonstrating that such developments can indeed infringe upon the rights of residents to enjoy their homes and surroundings peacefully. I believe that the proposed development in our area carries a similar risk of causing nuisance to local residents, including myself, through noise pollution, shadow flicker, and visual intrusion. The potential for these issues to negatively affect our health and well-being, as well as our property values, is a serious concern that must be thoroughly addressed.

I urge the An Coimisiún Pleanála to consider these points carefully and to reject this planning application. The long-term negative impacts on our environment, wildlife, and the quality of life for residents far outweigh any perceived benefits. We must protect our rural heritage for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Eimear Gormally