

Ger Gallagher
Curlawn,
Caherlistrane,
Co. Galway.
H91PFR5
Date: 09/11/25

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a formal submission objecting to the proposed Shancloon wind farm (Case 323699) development located 1km away, to the rear of my property, at Curlawn, Caherlistrane (eircode H91PFR5). I have serious concerns regarding the impact this project will have on my family, our health, our home, the local environment, and the wider community.

1. Impact on Family Life and Health

The proposed turbines will be extremely close to our homes and will drastically affect our quality of life. We live in a quiet, peaceful rural area, and the constant noise nuisance from the turbines — including the low-frequency hum and blade movement — will destroy that peace.

My parents live beside me. My mother is currently a cancer patient and also suffered a heart attack four years ago. Both of my parents depend on the calm and quiet of this environment for their health and recovery. The stress, vibration, and noise generated by turbines will have a serious negative impact on their wellbeing and their ability to rest and recover in peace.

I built my home beside my parents so that, as they grow older, I can be there to look after them. This was a decision based on family care, to support them in their later years. However, if this development goes ahead and begins to affect our health and family life, I may be forced to move away for the sake of my family's wellbeing. If that happens, who will be left to care for my parents? This proposal threatens not just our home, but our family structure and the support system my parents may rely on.

Noise and vibration from turbines, particularly at night, can cause sleep disturbance, stress, and anxiety, (as we have seen in court cases nationwide) which are particularly dangerous for anyone with heart conditions or undergoing cancer treatment.

2. Impact on My Daughter's Future, Family Land, and Property Value

I am also very concerned about how this project will affect my two daughter's futures and our family's plans for the land where we grew up. This is family land that we hoped to develop over time, allowing future generations, including my daughters, to build homes nearby and remain part of our local community.

However, I am aware that in other cases, wind farm developers have objected to local people applying for planning permission to build houses. [Such as the one reported in the Irish Independent on the 11/11/25 regarding a lady in Rossestown being granted a single storey planning permission only for windfarm company Orsted to object.] If this project goes ahead, it could prevent my daughters and others in the area from ever being able to obtain planning permission on family land, despite a current housing crisis..

In addition, I am very worried about the impact on mortgages and financial security. It is already known that banks and lenders now routinely ask about the presence of wind turbines in an area before approving a mortgage. Properties located near turbines are often viewed as higher risk or of reduced value, meaning future generations may be refused mortgages or offered less favourable terms.

This not only affects our family's future but also restricts community growth, forcing younger generations to move away. The turbines will also significantly reduce the value of our property, further harming our family's financial stability. Years of working hard to build our family home could now feel like it was for nothing.

3. Shadow Flicker and Visual / Environmental Impact

The proposed turbines will result in shadow flicker reaching our home at certain times of the day. This flickering effect can cause distress, headaches, and interfere with sleep.

The fields and bogland behind our home are also rich in wildlife. We have seen pine martens, a protected species under Irish and EU law.

Growing up here, I have always known this place to be alive with nature. I remember waking up as a child — and all through my life — to the sound of the cuckoo birds in the mornings. These are the sounds and sights that make rural Ireland what it is, and I fear that industrial turbines will drive away this wildlife permanently.

The installation of turbines and access roads will destroy or fragment these habitats, increase the risk of bird collisions, and permanently alter the natural environment that local families have cherished for generations.

4. Flooding, Wetland, and Environmental Risk

Behind our property lies a wetland, which floods extensively each winter as the nearby river flows into it. This wetland is part of the local natural water system and plays an important role in flood prevention and biodiversity. I have photographs showing the extent of this flooding.

This wetland acts as a natural sponge, absorbing excess rainwater and helping to prevent flooding in nearby areas. Digging, drainage, or concrete works in this area will interfere with underground water systems and natural drainage patterns. The construction of turbine bases and access roads will remove absorbent soil and bogland, leading to increased runoff and worsening local flooding.

I am deeply concerned that disturbing this delicate ecosystem will cause more frequent and severe flooding of nearby properties. I urge An Bord Pleanála to require a comprehensive independent hydrological and flood-risk assessment, from someone not paid by RWE, before any decision is made.

5. Destruction of Bogland and Environmental Consequences

The proposal involves the excavation of approximately over 11,000 truckloads of bog and soil, which will be replaced with concrete foundations for turbines.

This represents a devastating environmental impact. Bogs are among Ireland's most important natural assets — they store carbon, support biodiversity, and regulate water flow. Digging them up on this scale will release stored carbon, destroy habitats, and contribute to climate change.

We are constantly told that bogs are to be protected, yet this project plans to destroy them. It is impossible to reconcile this industrial-scale excavation with Ireland's environmental and climate commitments.

6. Conduct and Professionalism of the Wind Farm Company

Since the company first came to the area, their behaviour has been unprofessional and misleading. For example:

They carried out leaflet drops and claimed they would call to homes, but even when I was clearly at home (with my car visible outside), they left a leaflet and made no effort to knock on the door or speak to me.

Their actions have caused division, tension, and mistrust among neighbours. This pattern of behaviour raises serious doubts about the company's honesty and their commitment to genuine community consultation.

7. Conclusion

For all of the reasons outlined above, including the impact on family life and health, property value, future family housing and mortgage access, wildlife and natural heritage, flooding from the wetland, bog destruction, and the developer's conduct, I strongly object to this proposed wind farm development.

On a personal note, I have spent a great deal of my own time and resources trying to protect my home and community from this development. I have attended meetings, helped organise local opposition, created and distributed flyers, and paid for materials and signs, all at personal financial cost.

This has taken precious time away from my daughters, time I will never get back, as I've had to spend evenings and weekends working to defend our homes and environment. It is something I should never have had to do if RWE had engaged properly and truthfully with our community from the start.

We have felt from the beginning that we are fighting this on our own. This process has been stressful and isolating, and it has placed a heavy burden on ordinary families who simply want to live in peace in our own homes.

I respectfully ask that An Coimisiun Pleanála give full and careful consideration to these serious concerns and refuse permission for this project.

The peace, health, and wellbeing of our families — and the protection of the natural environment we grew up in — must be prioritised over industrial development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Ger Gallagher



Wetlands photos

