

Hugh & Becky Doherty
Treanbaun, Belclare
Tuam, Co. Galway, H54 X211

An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref. No. **PAX07.323699** – Objection to **Shancloon Wind Farm**

1. Introduction

We, Hugh and Becky Doherty, reside at Treanbaun, Belclare, Co. Galway (H54 X211), approximately 1.5 miles from the proposed turbines. We have lived here for over 20 years and wish to submit the following objection to the proposed Shancloon Wind Farm.

2. Health Concerns

Hugh suffers from tinnitus, and we are deeply concerned that low-frequency noise from the proposed turbines will exacerbate this condition. The 2019 Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (DWEDG) require stricter noise limits and cumulative impact assessments, yet the developer has ignored these requirements despite being instructed by An Coimisiún Pleanála to comply with these.

Loss of peace and quiet will negatively affect our mental well-being and quality of life, which we have enjoyed for over 20 years in this rural setting.

3. Landscape Protection & Visual Amenity

The Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028 (Appendix 4: Landscape Character Assessment) seeks to protect scenic corridors such as Knockma from visual intrusion by large-scale development. The proposed 180 m turbines will dominate the landscape and significantly alter views from Knockma toward Croagh Patrick and Connemara, contravening these protections.

4. Noise

The Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019) introduced stricter noise limits and cumulative impact assessments, yet the developer has relied on outdated 2006 guidelines. This failure to comply undermines the integrity of the planning process and increases health risks for residents.

5. Biodiversity & Habitat

Turbine foundations and access roads will disturb peat bogs, vital carbon sinks, and local wildlife, including buzzards and ground-nesting species. This contradicts the County Development Plan's objectives to safeguard biodiversity and the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) emphasis on habitat protection.

6. Shadow Flicker & Quality of Life

The continuous movement and shadow flicker caused by 11 large turbines will degrade the rural environment and quality of life enjoyed by residents.

7. Traffic Safety

Turbines adjacent to public roads can distract drivers and lead to road safety hazards. The thought of almost 60,000 heavy goods vehicles on our single lane local roads, over the 2 year construction period, fills us with dread.

8. Community Engagement

We only learned of this project via social media, indicating the developer failed to engage adequately with the local community, contrary to DWEDG and LARES requirements for meaningful consultation.

9. Alternative Renewable Energy Solutions

Offshore wind should be prioritized to meet renewable energy targets without destroying inland communities and landscapes.

10. Conclusion & Request

For the reasons outlined, contravention of key planning policies, failure to comply with 2019 DWEDG, threat to health, landscape, safety, and biodiversity, we respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the Shancloon Wind Farm.

Yours Faithfully,

Hugh & Becky Doherty
Treatnaun
Belclare
Tuam
Co. Galway
H54 X211