

**Re:** Objection to the Proposed Shancloon Wind Farm

**Case Reference:** Shancloon Wind Farm PAX07.323699

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Jarlath Burke and my son is Stephen Burke. I have lived and farmed in Ballinvoher, Caherlistrane for over forty years. I have spent my life working this land, caring for my livestock, and appreciating the peace and quiet that rural living provides. It is a fulfilling way of life, surrounded by nature and the sounds of the countryside. The tranquility of this place is what makes it special and what makes it worth protecting.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed Shancloon Wind Farm and the impact it will have on our environment, our community and our quality of life. The proposed turbines at 180m high are far too large and completely out of character with the local landscape. The visual impact alone would be enormous, changing forever the natural views we currently enjoy and replacing them with industrial structures.

I suffer from **tinnitus**, and I am extremely worried about the effects of wind turbine noise and infrasound, which can travel long distances and has been linked to health problems and increased stress. Under the *Planning and Development Act 2024*, Schedule 4, Part 1, Item 5 (b), a project may be refused permission where it is likely to be **"in an area where it is necessary to limit the risk of there being any serious danger to human health or the environment."** I believe this proposal clearly falls within that category. The thought of constant turbine noise affecting both my hearing and my peace of mind is distressing.

The project will also involve the removal of around 100,000 cubic metres of peat from the local bogs, to be replaced with concrete and steel. This is nothing short of environmental destruction. The bogs are living ecosystems that store carbon, absorb water, and support countless forms of wildlife. Once they are dug up, the damage will be permanent. Disturbing the bogs in this way will also lead to **increased flooding**, something we are already seeing more frequently in recent years. The loss of these natural defences will only make things worse for homes and farmland.

We live close to Lough Hackett, a beautiful and vital habitat rich in bird life. We are very concerned about the **loss of habitat** that this development will cause and the danger of birds, especially **rare species like the curlew**, colliding with the turbine blades. These birds are already under threat, this project could push them closer to extinction in our area.

There has been **no communication or engagement** from the developer, RWE, despite the fact that our home and farm are located on what is likely to be the main delivery route for the proposed substation and we live within 2km of the proposed location for it. This route will bring thousands of vehicles, including heavy goods vehicles onto our narrow rural roads. These roads

are simply not built for that level of traffic and will become dangerous for residents, farmers and livestock alike.

This project is not the kind of "green energy" it claims to be. The destruction of the bogs, the harm to wildlife, and the industrialisation of our countryside cannot be called sustainable. It is also a waste of taxpayers' money, as developers receive curtailment payments even when turbines are not producing power.

For all these reasons, we ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to think about the people who live here, the habitats that will be destroyed, and the wildlife that will be displaced or killed. Please refuse permission for this project.

The Shancloon Wind Farm would cause irreparable harm to our landscape, our environment, and our way of life.

Yours Sincerely,

Jarlath Burke  
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