

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála / Galway County Council

Re: Objection to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm (Ref: ACP 323699)

Dear Sir / Madam,

We, Michael and Marie Fahy, of Curlawn, Caherlistrane, wish to strongly object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm.

We will be right in the middle of the development — with turbines on one side of us and the substation on the other. Michael has lived here all his life (63 years), and Marie has lived here for 36 years. We love our quiet, rural way of life, the connection to nature, and the peace that comes from living close to the bog. We enjoy walking there, watching the birds, and the wildlife that makes this place special. This development would completely destroy that way of life.

Substation, Fire Risk and Flooding

We are particularly worried about the proposed 7-acre substation, which is planned for land that floods regularly. Both a river and an underground spring run alongside it, and it flooded less than three weeks ago. In fact, cattle had to be moved off that land in the past because of how wet it gets. Michael is including photographs showing recent flooding near the proposed site. The idea of putting a substation — and possibly battery storage — in a location like that is deeply concerning. Also, the fire risk from both the turbines and any battery storage facility is extremely serious, especially on bogland. A fire in this environment would be almost impossible to control.

Environmental and Wildlife Concerns

We are very worried about the effect this will have on wildlife. We often see Pine Martens around here, as well as a wide variety of birds and bats. The turbines pose a real danger of injury and death to them. The noise, lighting, and activity will drive many species away. The bog and surrounding land are part of a delicate ecosystem — disturbing the peat will affect the water flow and could make the flooding we already experience even worse. Flooding has become more frequent in recent years, and this project will only add to that risk.

Personal and Health Impacts

Michael suffers from stress and anxiety, which he fears will only get worse with this project hanging over us and operating so close to our home. Marie and our daughter both suffer from endometriosis, a condition that is highly sensitive to sleep disturbance and hormonal stress. The constant noise, flicker, and night-time lighting from turbines and substation activity could have a very real impact on their health and wellbeing.

Poor Consultation and Misleading Information

We met with representatives from RWE, but we were extremely disappointed with how we were treated. Our concerns were dismissed, and we were told that the substation would be located “a long way” from our home. We later found out that it is actually right beside our land — on ground that floods in heavy rain. The developer also approached us for access to our land, which we refused. Throughout the process, we feel we have been given misleading information and that local people have not been treated with honesty or respect.

The wider community consultation has been very poor. Many people knew little or nothing about the plans until they were well advanced. This lack of openness has led to tension and disputes among neighbours and even within families. It has caused division in a community that was always close and supportive.

Loss of Landscape and Heritage

The natural beauty of this area will be destroyed. The turbines and substation will dominate the landscape and take away from the rural character that generations before us have cared for. In Donaghpatrick graveyard there is a stone with a map of all the Lisíns in the ara — a reminder of our heritage and deep local roots. These Lisíns could be at threat if there's increased flooding in the area. That heritage deserves respect, not industrialisation.

Future Planning and Housing

We also worry about the future. With the current housing crisis, developments like this make it even harder for local families or their children to get planning permission. Who will want to build or live surrounded by turbines and substations? This will make rural living less attractive and drive more people away from the area.

For all of these reasons — the flood risk, fire danger, wildlife impacts, poor consultation, health concerns, and the loss of our peace and heritage — we strongly object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm and substation.

We ask that this application be refused.

Yours sincerely,

Michael and Marie Fahy

Curlawn, Caherlistrane







