

**Paddy & Teresa McHugh
Beaghmore
Belclare
Tuam
Co. Galway
H54K351**

4th November 2025

To:
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Submission on Proposed Wind Farm Development – Shancloon windfarm development in the townlands of Beagh, Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonweelaun, Cloonnaglasha, Cloonteen, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway.

Case Number : PAX07.323699

Dear Sir / Madam,

We wish to make a submission regarding the proposed Shancloon windfarm development, as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Our home is located 1.7 km from the proposed windfarm and in close proximity to a turlough, which lies immediately beside our property. The land surrounding our home is low-lying and subject to seasonal flooding during the winter months. We are deeply concerned about the potential flood risk and hydrological impacts that could arise from the proposed works, particularly peat removal and piling for turbine foundations.

Turloughs are unique seasonal wetlands that are closely connected to the underlying karst aquifer system. Any disturbance to the groundwater regime — such as excavation, piling, or dewatering during turbine construction — has the potential to alter natural drainage patterns, disrupt the hydrological balance, and increase the risk of flooding in surrounding lands, including our property.

The removal or disturbance of peat and subsoil can also reduce the land's natural water retention capacity and increase surface water runoff, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. These changes could significantly exacerbate local flooding issues, especially in an area already characterised by fluctuating groundwater levels due to the nearby turlough.

We are also concerned that the EIAR may not fully assess the cumulative hydrological effects of multiple turbines and access tracks across a sensitive landscape. The potential for aquifer contamination from construction materials or disturbed peat deposits should also be carefully considered, given the close hydrological connectivity between the site and the turlough ecosystem.

We respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála ensure that a comprehensive hydrological and hydrogeological assessment is undertaken by an independent specialist to evaluate:

The potential for flooding impacts on nearby dwellings and lands;

The implications of peat excavation and piling on groundwater flow and recharge;

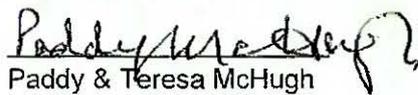
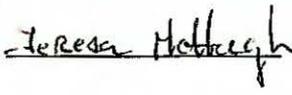
The risk of aquifer disturbance or contamination; and

The overall effect of the project on the turlough's ecological and hydrological integrity.

Given the environmental sensitivity of turloughs — many of which are designated under the EU Habitats Directive — and the potential for serious and irreversible impacts, we believe this development requires strict scrutiny and precautionary mitigation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our submission.

Yours faithfully,

 
Paddy & Teresa McHugh