

Teresa Geraghty  
Derrymore  
Caherlistrane  
Galway

### **Introduction**

My name is Teresa Geraghty and I am a 78-year-old resident living in Derrymore Caherlistrane approximately 1 kilometre from several of the turbines proposed for the Shanclon Wind Farm development.

I rely on a quiet and stable home environment, and I am concerned about the potential impacts this development may have on my health, comfort, and quality of life.

### **Request for Independent Noise Impact Assessment**

Given the potential for significant noise disturbance from operational turbines — including low-frequency noise and amplitude modulation — I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála require a **fully independent noise impact assessment**, carried out by a qualified expert with no connection to the developer. This assessment should evaluate:

- day-time and night-time noise levels at nearby homes,
- low-frequency and infrasound components,
- potential amplitude modulation effects,
- noise propagation under different weather and wind conditions,
- long-term exposure impacts on older residents, and
- compliance with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for noise and health.

As an elderly resident who spends most of my time at home, I am particularly vulnerable to continuous or intermittent noise. It is essential that noise impacts be assessed impartially and accurately to protect the wellbeing of those living in the surrounding community.

### **Overall Health and Wellbeing:**

My physical and mental wellbeing depend on peace, quiet, and stability in my home environment. The introduction of large turbines may increase stress, reduce comfort, and create a sense of unease. These effects, combined with potential noise and flicker impacts, could diminish my overall quality of life. As an older resident, I am more vulnerable to these changes than others who spend less time at home or who are less sensitive to noise and disturbance.

### **Construction Traffic and Community Safety**

Construction traffic associated with large wind turbines — including heavy vehicles, machinery, and continuous transport movements — may significantly increase noise, dust, and road safety risks in the area. This is a concern for older residents and the wider community, particularly on narrow rural roads not designed for frequent heavy traffic.

For me personally, daily walking is an important part of maintaining my health, routine, and independence. Going for a walk is one of the main ways I stay active, get fresh air, and meet neighbours in the local community.

However, if construction traffic is present on the roads near my home, I would feel unsafe walking outdoors. Large vehicles passing regularly, sometimes at speed or with poor visibility, would make the roads unpredictable and intimidating for an older person. This would severely reduce my confidence and could leave me feeling that it is safer to remain inside my home rather than risk going out for exercise.

Losing this ability to walk outside would:

- limit me to my home for long periods,
- reduce my daily physical activity,
- increase feelings of isolation, and
- prevent me from meeting neighbours and maintaining social contact, which is very important for my wellbeing at my age.

The impact of construction traffic would therefore go beyond inconvenience; it would directly affect my physical health, social connections, and quality of life.

### **Impact on Wildlife & Bird Collision Risk**

Our area lies directly along the flight path of breeding waders travelling to and from Lough Hackett. Turbines will introduce large, fast-moving blades into these natural flight routes, increasing the risk of collision, disruption of traditional movement patterns, and long-term impacts on local bird populations.

I respectfully request that a full, independent ornithological assessment be carried out to evaluate these risks.

### **Flooding Risk and Disruption of Water Courses**

This area already experiences seasonal flooding. The construction of turbine foundations, access roads, underground cabling, and drainage works has the potential to alter natural water flow, redirect run-off, and intensify flooding in vulnerable locations.

I request that a full hydrological assessment be carried out to evaluate how this development may affect existing water courses and flood-prone lands.

### **Lack of Local Consultation**

I am concerned that public consultation for this project has not been adequately accessible to the local community. Meetings were held outside the immediate area, making it difficult for many residents like myself to attend. This may have limited the community's ability to fully understand the scale and impacts of the proposal.

I respectfully ask the Board to consider whether meaningful local consultation has taken place, particularly for elderly residents.

### **Protection of Local Bogs and Sensitive Habitats**

The landscape around my home includes bogs and peatland that are environmentally sensitive. These areas support wildlife, regulate water flow, and are an important part of our natural heritage.

The construction of turbines and associated infrastructure may disturb peat, alter water levels, damage bog structure, and impact habitats. Because bogs take thousands of years to form, any damage may be permanent.

I request that independent environmental and hydrological assessments be carried out to protect these bogs.

### **Requests to An Bord Pleanála**

I respectfully ask the Board to:

1. Assess noise impacts on residents.
2. Consider the effects of shadow flicker.
3. Examine potential sleep disturbance.
4. Assess construction traffic impacts on community safety.
5. Evaluate wildlife impacts, especially waders linked to Lough Hackett.
6. Ensure a full hydrological assessment for flood-prone areas.
7. Assess whether public consultation was adequately accessible to the local community.
8. Protect local bogs and peatland through independent environmental assessment.