



Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's
name

Ann-Marie & StJohn Searle

(b) Observer's
postal address

Cooloo, Moylough, Co.Galway, H53 EW25.

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else on this observation, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

N/A

(b) Agent's postal
address

N/A

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

The agent at the postal address in Part 2

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Bord Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**
(for example: 300000)

323761

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Cooloo Wind Farm

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Cooloo, Co. Galway

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word limit** as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

Dear Planning Officer,

I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the above application submitted by Neon on the following grounds:

1. **Visual impact:** We purchased this property specifically for its:

- Rural character and tranquil setting.
- Abundance of wildlife in close proximity.
- Open landscape and sunset views.

We reside at H53 EW25, which is on the 1k line of the proposed windfarm, our property overlooks the general area of proposed development. A minimum of five turbines will be directly visible from our property, altering the landscape view we value and enjoy so much. The project's visual intrusion including its number and size of turbines is considered unacceptable by myself and my spouse.

We will be significantly affected by this development.

2. **Construction disruption:** The proposed development will bring a level of noise and disruption we are unaccustomed to and have no desire for especially as we chose to leave city living for the peace of living in an undeveloped rural site. And the rural road that will run through the middle of this construction site is used on a nearly daily basis by me and my family for walks, cycles, dog walks etc... It will not be acceptable to have to worry about construction traffic and all that it entails.

We will be significantly affected by this development.

3. **Traffic disruption:** The requirement to build new roads and the transportation of multiple loads of heavy goods for a significant length of time will disrupt our emotional and mental wellbeing.

We will be significantly affected by this development.

4. **Property devaluation:** Due to the Windfarms close proximity to our property, the proposed development has a high probability of reducing the attributes that make our property desirable (open landscape views, beautiful sunsets, thriving wildlife) and introducing attributes that will deter potential buyers (visual impact, shadow flicker, noise, electromagnetic interference). No

5. Grounds

offer has been made to guarantee a property purchase price at pre-development price should residents wish to relocate.

We will be significantly affected by this development.

5. **Future planning issues for our children:** Previous cases of company objections to planning for community residents in proximity to wind farms have been observed.

We will be significantly affected by this development **as will future generations.**

6. **Lack of adequate compensation for residents on or outside the 1km line:** The proposed community fund is not of significant value to each household when spread through the community and sufficient information on any compensation for loss related to all the above has not been provided.

We will be significantly affected by this development

7. **Cumulative impact of all of the above:** On our mental, financial and emotional wellbeing. Research done on noise levels from existing wind farms suggest that such a proposed project would generate excessive noise and impact quality of life for nearby residents. The negative health effects of wind turbines on the local residents have been well documented all around the country.

We will be significantly affected by this development

Summary:

We as proud residents of Cooloo are not opposed to renewable energy projects however we are in opposition of the proposed development due to its large-scale nature and proposed location.

We wish to register our strong objection to the proposed Neon development. The project would cause unacceptable visual intrusion, with multiple turbines visible from our property and fundamentally alter the rural landscape, the wildlife presence, and sunset views that formed the basis of our decision to live here. The development would also introduce significant construction noise, disturbance, and prolonged heavy-goods traffic, all of which undermine the tranquillity and safety of this area.

The proximity of the turbines is likely to reduce our property's value, with no guarantees or mitigation offered. We are further concerned about potential future planning constraints for our children and the lack of adequate compensation or meaningful benefit for residents within or beyond the 1km line. Overall, the cumulative impact on our mental, emotional, and financial wellbeing is substantial, and research indicates that operational noise from similar wind farms can significantly affect nearby households.

I respectfully urge you to refuse planning permission for this development. If An Coimisiún Pleanála is minded to grant permission I request that **at the least**

5. Grounds

the decision is deferred and further community engagement and consultation undertaken.

Yours sincerely
Ann-Marie & StJohn Searle

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to request the Board to hold an oral hearing, please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes