

Can the Photos attached in this document be redacted for publication on An Coimisiún Pleanála website please

Caroline Lohan
Twenty Acrea
Barnaderg,
Tuam,
Galway

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

Date: 15th November 2025

Re: Observation/Submission to proposed wind energy development at Cooloo Wind Farm

I am writing on behalf of Happy Tots Early Years Service to formally object to the proposed wind turbine development in the Barnaderg Cooloo area.

Our service is situated close to the proposed development, we work with young children who engage in outdoor learning, nature connection and environmental education. A key natural feature of our environment is the turlough area. It is located near the Castle, which is regularly used by whooper swans for feeding and nesting grounds. Given the protected status of the whooper swans and the ecological importance of this local habitat, we believe the proposed development is incompatible with safeguarding this species.

Our early years curriculum strongly emphasises environmental stewardship, wildlife observation, and outdoor experiences. The presence of whooper swans in our local area provides valuable real-life learning opportunities for the children attending our service. The loss of this beautiful habitat would be of great loss and negatively affect the children's connection to local wildlife, opportunities for learning experiences tied to seasonal migration and the wider community enjoyment of the natural environment.

This development location presents known and significant risks to the species, including collision risk, disturbance and displacement and habitat fragmentation caused by infrastructure.

As an early years service provider we value our natural environment, connections to our community and our local heritage area. We educate the children about local features and we are based in the heart of a small community. This development is not for our community.

Given that this wildlife is an integral part of our local ecosystem – and contributes to the educational experience of the children at my service – this environmental disturbance is unacceptable.

Some of the children attending my service have additional needs, including sensory sensitivities and social communication differences. Wind turbines can produce:

- Low-frequency noise, which can be distressing for children with sensory processing difficulties.
- Increased visual stimulation, which may trigger anxiety or dysregulation.

Educational, childcare, and additional-needs settings require predictable, calm environments, and this development risks undermining the wellbeing of these children.

An early years' service provider we should be treated as a sensitive receptor in planning terms. The proximity of the proposed turbines to a setting caring for young children suggests that insufficient weight has been given to community impact, equality obligations, and duty of care.

I request that An Coimisiún Pleanála consider my submission and reject the proposed development. Please keep me informed of any updates on this planning application and notify of if there is an oral hearing in the future. Should you require any additional information, you are welcome to come and visit my service.

Please see below some photos taken at the Turlough beside Barnaderg Castle.

Yours Sincerely

Caroline Lohan

Happy Tots Montessori