

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

Olivia Rooney

(b) Observer's
postal address

Imanemore Barnaderg Tuam Co. Galway

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal
address

Click or tap here to enter text.

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)

Cloondahamper, Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally & Slievegorm, 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).

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Observation/Submission – Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm (Strategic Infrastructure Development)

Case Reference: PAX07.323761

Applicant: Neoen Renewables Ireland Ltd.

Location: Cloondahamper, Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecarrow, Dangan Eighter, Lissavally & Slievegorm, Co. Galway

EIAR: Yes

From:

Olivia Rooney
Imanemore, Barnaderg, Tuam, Co. Galway
Eircode: H54 E371

Date: 07/11/2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to lodge my formal objection to the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm and all associated works.

I am a lifelong resident of Barnaderg and, more importantly, a parent of a child with additional and sensory needs. I am deeply worried about how this development—if permitted—will affect the health, wellbeing, safety, and daily life of my children, my family, and our community.

Impact on children, families and sensory needs

Children with sensory sensitivities are highly reactive to noise, vibration, flickering light, and constant motion. The proposed wind farm, with turbines up to 180 metres in height and rotor diameters up to 162 metres, will produce continuous low-frequency noise; visual movement, and shadow flicker.

5. Grounds

These effects can trigger anxiety, agitation, loss of sleep, headaches, and distress, especially in children with autism spectrum or sensory processing disorders. In our home, maintaining a calm, predictable sensory environment is essential.

Introducing giant moving structures nearby, with persistent background hum and shadow flicker through windows, would severely disrupt that balance and impact my child's ability to rest, learn, and function safely.

The EIAR does not adequately address the impact on families or children with additional needs. There has been no engagement with local families to understand these vulnerabilities or to propose realistic mitigation.

Proximity to homes and daily disturbance

Our home lies within the Barnaderg/Cooloo area where these turbines will visually dominate the skyline. Their sheer scale will fundamentally alter the peace and rural character of our community.

Industrial-scale machines of this size and height should not be located close to established family homes. The constant noise, vibration and lighting—especially at night—will make the area feel industrialised rather than residential or agricultural.

There are no guarantees of setback distances sufficient to protect public health or wellbeing. The outdated national guidelines on wind energy are no longer fit for purpose and fail to reflect modern turbine sizes or their acoustic characteristics.

Road safety and community disruption

The road network around Cooloo, Imanemore and Barnaderg is extremely narrow, already carrying farm machinery, school traffic, buses, and local commuters. The scale of construction traffic required—heavy cranes, concrete mixers, and abnormal loads—would pose a serious risk to children walking or cycling to school, elderly residents, and farm users.

No community consultation or traffic safety study has been shared with us. The potential for road damage, noise, dust, and vibration during months (or years) of construction has not been adequately assessed. Families like mine rely on these roads every day, and we deserve to know how our safety will be protected.

Environmental and habitat concerns

The proposed site spans areas of bogland, wetland and farmland, which are vital for biodiversity, flood prevention, and carbon storage.

Excavating, draining or compacting peat soils for turbine foundations and access roads can lead to peat slide, flooding, and long-term environmental damage that cannot easily be reversed.

As a parent, I want to teach my children about protecting nature and caring for the environment. It is contradictory to promote a "green energy" project that risks destroying local ecosystems and damaging habitats for wildlife, bats, and birds.

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Cumulative and visual impact on rural identity

North and East Galway already have a growing concentration of wind farms. This proposal adds yet another cluster of enormous structures to a rural area defined by open skies, heritage landscapes, and family farms. The turbines will tower over our villages, visible from homes, schools, churches and community facilities. Night-time aviation lighting will remove the natural darkness we associate with country life.

Our community's sense of peace, privacy, and rural identity would be permanently altered.

Mental health and wellbeing

Living near constant mechanical noise and movement can have a serious psychological toll, particularly on vulnerable or sensitive individuals. Parents already managing complex care needs do not have the capacity to endure further environmental stressors such as vibration, flicker, and anxiety about turbine safety.

There has been no health-impact assessment addressing mental health, child development, or wellbeing—yet these are key determinants of sustainable community life.

Inadequate consultation and transparency

As an active community member, I can confirm that no meaningful communication or direct consultation has taken place with families in Barnaderg or the Killrerin Community Council, despite being among the most directly affected.

Information has been difficult to access, technical in nature, and presented without opportunity for questions or feedback. This lack of openness undermines trust and public confidence in the process.

Meaningful participation is a legal requirement under the Aarhus Convention, yet families like mine feel excluded from decisions that could reshape our lives.

Policy, planning and fairness

5. Grounds

The proposal conflicts with key objectives of the Galway County Development Plan, including:

protection of residential amenity and community wellbeing,

safeguarding of scenic landscapes and rural character,

traffic safety on local and regional roads, and

protection of biodiversity and natural water systems.

Renewable energy is important, but it must be pursued in a balanced and responsible way that does not harm those it claims to benefit. Rural families should not bear the brunt of national policy while urban areas remain unaffected.

Conclusion and request

I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the Cooloo Wind Farm as proposed.

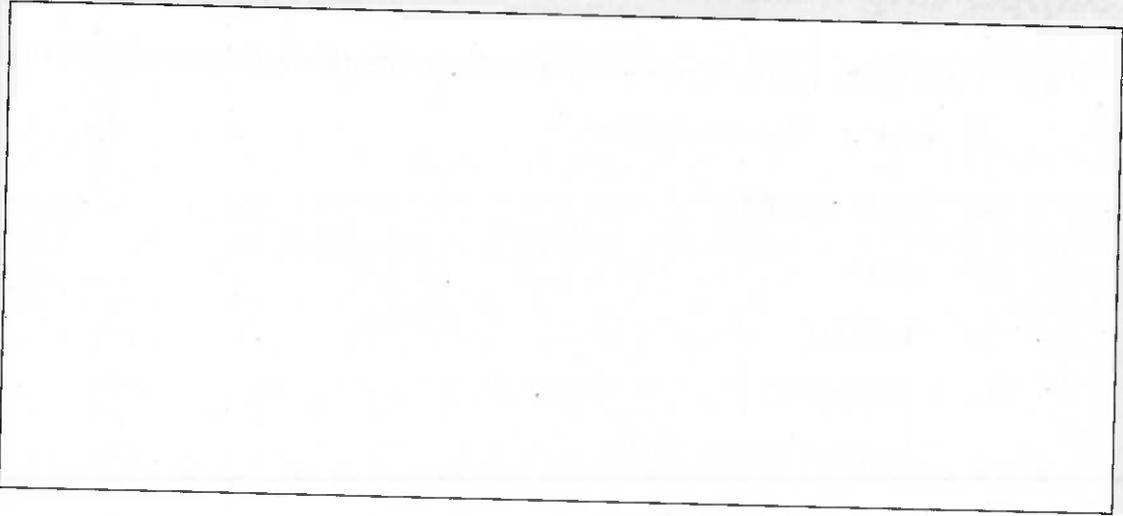
This project represents an industrial-scale intrusion into a peaceful, family-based rural community without proper safeguards, consultation, or respect for vulnerable residents.

If permission is not refused outright, I request that an Oral Hearing be held so that local families, particularly those caring for children with additional needs, can have our voices heard.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission and keep me informed of any further information or oral hearing notifications.

Yours sincerely,
Olivia Rooney
Imanemore, Barnaderg, Tuam, Co. Galway
Eircode: H54 E371

5. Grounds



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