

From:

Sandra & Shane Kelly
Cooloo, Moylough,
Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 XA44

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

**Re: Observation/Submission to Proposed Barnaderg/Cooloo Wind Farm
and all associated works.**

Ref: An Coimisiún Pleanála Case Ref. PAX07.323761

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Sandra Kelly, a resident of Cooloo, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway (H53 XA44), along with my husband Shane and our three sons, Luke, Billy, and Danny Kelly, wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed Barnaderg/Cooloo Wind Farm development (ACP Case Ref: PAX07.323761).

While we support renewable energy in principle, we believe this particular proposal is inappropriate for this area due to the sheer size and scale of the turbines and the long-term negative impacts it would have on our rural community, local environment, and landscape. It also conflicts directly with a number of objectives and policies of the Galway County Development Plan (GCDP) 2022–2028.

1. Visual and Landscape Impact

The proposed turbines—of excessive height (up to 180 m tip height) and industrial scale—would irreversibly alter the rural character of Barnaderg, Cooloo, and the wider Moylough area. This height is at the extreme end of what has been proposed in Ireland and exceeds the size of all operational onshore wind turbines currently in the country. The turbines would dominate the skyline and be visible for miles, severely diminishing the scenic and cultural value of the area.

From a precedent perspective, the proposed 180 m tip height is significantly taller than the majority of operational turbines in Ireland (typically around 140 m). Only a small number of developments, such as Cushaling Wind Farm, approach this scale—and these are not yet

operational. Therefore, the proposal represents one of the largest and tallest turbine types ever planned for onshore Ireland, creating untested visual, environmental, and amenity impacts.

According to Map 8.2 (Landscape Sensitivity) of the Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028 and the Galway County Landscape Sensitivity Ratings dataset (Galway County Council Open Data Hub), the lands at Cooloo/Barnaderg are located within a Class 1 – Low Landscape Sensitivity area. Even in these areas, Policy Objective LCP 1 requires that all developments be sited and designed to protect local landscape character, scenic views, and residential amenity, and that renewable energy infrastructure must avoid dominating the skyline. The proposed 180 m turbines clearly breach these objectives and are inconsistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of this rural landscape.

2. Residential Amenity and Health Concerns

We are deeply concerned about the proximity of these turbines to family homes and the potential adverse health impacts associated with noise, shadow flicker, and low-frequency vibration. Scientific studies and health reports have shown that residents near large turbines can experience chronic headaches, migraines, sleep disturbance, and stress due to these factors.

As someone who suffers from chronic migraines, I am particularly vulnerable to sensory disturbances triggered by light, noise, and visual motion. Modern clinical research confirms that migraine is a neurological disorder characterized by hypersensitivity of the brain's sensory pathways—including the visual, auditory, and vestibular systems. Even moderate exposure to flickering light or repetitive motion can provoke severe migraine attacks, dizziness, or nausea.

Peer-reviewed evidence demonstrates that:

- Migraine patients show abnormal brain responses to rotating “windmill-dartboard” visual patterns, indicating hypersensitivity to motion and flicker (Oelkers-Axel et al., *Journal of Headache and Pain*, 2013).
- Moving visual environments (such as rotating blades or shifting shadows) trigger symptoms in over 70% of patients with vestibular migraine (Chen et al., *Frontiers in Neurology*, 2018).
- Continuous low-frequency turbine noise and infrasound can cause sleep disturbance, stress, and headaches (Møller & Pedersen, *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.*, 2011; Shepherd et al., *Noise & Health*, 2011; Sørensen et al., *BMJ*, 2022).

Given these findings, it is medically and scientifically reasonable to conclude that the proposed turbines—at 180 m high and within approximately 1 km of our home—would significantly exacerbate migraine-related sensory issues, leading to increased frequency and severity of attacks, sleep disturbance, and reduced quality of life for both myself and my family. This directly conflicts with Policy Objectives CS 13 and DM 1 of the GCDP, which require the protection of residential amenity, public health, and safety in all developments.

3. Environmental and Ecological Impact

The proposed site encompasses valuable wildlife habitats, including those used by protected bird and bat species. The GCDP (Objectives NHB 1, NHB 12, and RE 7) requires that renewable energy projects do not adversely affect biodiversity or lead to habitat loss or disturbance. The Environmental Impact material provided fails to adequately address cumulative ecological effects, particularly regarding migratory species and regional habitat connectivity. As such, the proposal does not comply with the environmental protection objectives of the Development Plan or national biodiversity policy.

4. Traffic, Road Safety, and Construction Impact

The proposed delivery and construction traffic would involve heavy goods vehicles travelling on narrow, rural local roads that are wholly unsuitable for the scale of works proposed. This presents serious road safety risks for residents, schoolchildren, and farm users. The project would likely cause road damage, dust, and disruption throughout construction, contrary to Objective TM 2 of the GCDP, which requires that developments protect the safety, capacity, and integrity of local roads.

5. Community Impact and Lack of Meaningful Consultation

We also wish to highlight the inadequate public consultation and lack of genuine community engagement. The information provided to residents has been limited, technical, and difficult to access. There has been no meaningful discussion of community benefit, compensation, or mitigation for those most affected. This development would bring lasting detriment to property values, local heritage, and rural life, with minimal benefit to the community directly impacted.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, we respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Barnaderg/Cooloo Wind Farm. The project is incompatible with the Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028, would seriously injure the amenities and landscape character of the area, and would endanger the health, safety, and quality of life of local residents. The turbines proposed are too big, too close, and too many, and would be utterly invasive to all surrounding dwellings including my own. If this development were to proceed, it would permanently alter the peaceful and rural nature of our community for generations to come.

Thank you for considering our submission and I kindly request an acknowledgment receipt and to keep me informed of any updates or oral hearings.

Yours faithfully,

Sandra & Shane Kelly

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