

Davy and Claire  
Ryan  
Ballinlee  
Bruff,  
Co.Limerick  
V35 DR76

The Secretary,  
An Coimisiún Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902  
**Case reference: PAX91.323780**

**Date:** MM/ DD/ 2025

**Re: 10-year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, underground electric cabling systems between the wind farm site and connection point at existing Killonan 220/110kV substation, and ancillary development. Located in Ballincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.**

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to formally object to the proposed construction of large-scale wind turbines, exceeding 160 metres in height, within close proximity (less than one kilometre) of our home and community in Ballinlee, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

Our family and our neighbours are extremely concerned and distressed by the potential impact this development will have on our health, wellbeing, environment, and local way of life. We fully support renewable energy and sustainability, but this proposal is inappropriately sited and poses serious risks to our rural community.

Below, we have outlined the key reasons for our objection:

### **1. Proximity and Impact on Residential Amenity & Wellbeing & Health**

Our house is referenced as **H133** and shows 25 hrs / year of shadow flicker. This is going to impact us hugely and our family and is a clear breach of guidelines. It is going to cause distress and totally ruin the enjoyment of our home. As Minister Micheál Martin acknowledged in 2013, "the implications are real" for those living near large industrial wind farms. Twelve years later, turbines have grown to nearly three times their original size. Shadow flicker from these turbines is linked to stress, discomfort, nausea, eyestrain, dizziness, and headaches.

Noise will cause us to suffer sleep disturbance, stress, and anxiety from low-frequency noise and audible noise. The limits are also breached for 100's of homes, and these limits exceed WHO 2018 noise guidelines.

**Our Home is in the middle of this Wind Factory!**

T15 is 1032m from our house but that's from the centre of our house, the distance from our garden means we are even closer. Our proximity to all 12 turbines:

- T15: 1032.2 m
- T14: 1332.2 m
- T13: 1543.4 m
- T17: 1678.9 m
- T16: 1956.1 m
- T5: 2118.2 m
- T10: 2174.4 m
- T11: 2326.4 m
- T4: 2430.1 m
- T12: 2458.3 m

Such proximity will cause noise pollution, shadow flicker, and severe visual intrusion, diminishing quality of life, peace, and privacy.

Article 3 of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU requires that effects on "population and human health" be described and evaluated, this clearly has not been done as we are being exposed to clear breach in noise and shadow flicker which will cause us harm and health impacts. These environmental stressors will result in anxiety, sleep disruption, and diminished wellbeing as evidenced by the WHO, 2018. This is unacceptable.

## **2. Impact on the Rural Landscape and Heritage**

These mass of turbines will irreversibly alter the rural landscape, replacing natural views with industrial structures. We will spend the rest of our days looking at these monsters, affecting our mental health and enjoyment of our home. The area's scenic beauty and cultural heritage will be destroyed. Serious harm will be caused to our Golden Vale with such severe visual and cultural impact on this historically significant area.

Rural Ireland's landscape is of major emotional value to us and needs to be protected as per our Limerick Development Plan.

## **3. Environmental and Wildlife Concerns**

Large turbines pose proven risks to bird and bat populations, including collisions and loss of habitat. The project will be detrimental to local biodiversity, including hedgerows supporting protected species. As per application there is nearly 2km of native hedgerows that are going to be destroyed. These cannot be replaced by replanting!

## **4. Property Value and Community Impact**

Numerous studies indicate that wind farms will reduce nearby property values, particularly within 1-2 kilometres. My house is 1km away and we have 10 Turbines within 2.4KM of our home. No-one will want to live here and this means we are denied any choice if we want to relocate in the future. We will be trapped in our home.

The project is already dividing community; this is not a Just Transition. The impact of this project violates the spirit and letter of the EIA Directive.

We have invested in our home, and Ireland's transition to renewable energy should never come at a cost to families in their homes, who are left suffering losses, health issues and reduced enjoyment. It is unjust.

### **5. Planning and Policy Issues**

This project breaches national and local planning guidelines regarding noise, visual landscape impact and objectives for protection of community spaces and environments supporting psychosocial wellbeing.

Many EU countries have introduced minimum setbacks of 1.5–2 km for similar turbine sizes. Why is Ireland inflicting 650m setbacks on a community where over there are close to 200+ homes within 1km.

### **6. Lack of Meaningful Community Benefit**

Climate Law wants thinks that "community financial benefits" can compensate for the long-term harm to residents, landscape, and wellbeing. It cannot.

Financial contributions or community funds cannot replace the permanent loss of tranquillity and rural character. Our health is our wealth.

This company, Greensource / Ballinlee Green Energy breached EIA requirements for "early", "meaningful, honest and open community engagement. They effectively dictated the form of community engagement at every step of the way, they refused to host a Public Meeting and even offended us in their reasoning for not having an open meeting, saying that our community were threatening. This is a peaceful, friendly and welcoming community. We find this deeply deeply inappropriate. They excluded huge amounts of people by refusing to hold a public meeting, this breaches the **EIA Directive (2014/52/EU)** ("EIA Directive") which requires a Wind Energy Developer to ensure that the community is provided with **early and effective public participation** in the environmental assessment process.

### **7. Construction Impacts**

Construction work will cause noise disturbance, and pollution, disrupting local ecosystems. The impact on our country road, Ballinlee, which is narrow, prone to flooding and incapable of carrying heavy traffic, will pose untold safety issues for the many neighbours that use this road for walking etc. Aswell the Croom Road R516 and other local roads will be impacted by both Wind Farm and Grid Route construction traffic. This will cause huge disruption with the expected 100's of extra vehicles daily for 2 years. I think there are even as many as 200 a day at peak times.

### **Summary**

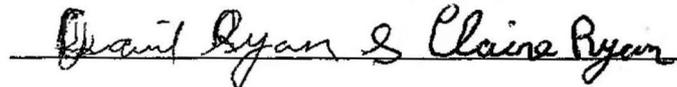
Bruff is not a remote location. Despite how it is portrayed in the application, it is in fact a vibrant, growing community, not an isolated rural area. It is unjust to attempt to impose this Wind Farm in our area under guidelines that are totally unfit for purpose, dated 2006. There has been numerous High

Court Cases lately show people were forced to take Wind Farms to court, at their own expense as they cannot live and enjoy their homes. This is wrong, why haven't the new guidelines been updated. It puts 100's, if not 1000's of people at risk here in Bruff and Dromin and Camas. I don't believe that 20-year-old guidelines are acceptable to protect our community when there is clear evidence and research that shows wind turbines positioned too close to homes cause negative health impacts.

This proposal will transform a peaceful, productive rural environment into an industrial energy zone, eroding both the landscape character, wellbeing and livelihoods that define this wonderful community.

We strongly urge that this development be rejected for these reasons. Thank you for reading our submission.

David and Claire Ryan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Ryan & Claire Ryan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

087-7960820