



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## 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

Emmett Murphy- St. Mary's NS Croom

(b) Observer's  
postal address

St. Mary's NS, High Street, Croom, Co. Limerick

### 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

Not Applicable

(b) Agent's postal  
address

Not Applicable

## 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

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The agent at the postal address in Part 2

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## 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)

323780

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

Ballinlee Wind Farm

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

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

Ballincurra, Ballingayrour, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick

## 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).

#### 1. Threat to Pupil Safety and Disruption from Increased HGV Traffic

The school's primary concern relates to the significant increase in Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements of 142 per day necessitated by the construction and, potentially, the maintenance of the wind farm.

**Road Safety at Peak Times:** The proposed development's construction/delivery route involves R516 which is directly adjacent to St. Mary's National School (Protected structure: NIAH Reg 21828021 St Mary's School). The peak times for school drop-off 8:50am to 9:10am and pick-up 1:40 pm to 2:40pm already experience high volumes of pedestrian and vehicle traffic, including young children, parents, and school buses. The school has raised our concerns to Limerick City and County Council at a recent Municipal Meeting held at the school in May 2025 regarding the safety of our children at pick up and collection due to the convergence of 2 roads and the entrance to Mannings Bus Hire at our school entrance outside of the proposed plan from Ballinlee Wind Farm .

**Increased Collision Risk:** Introducing numerous large HGVs at these critical times represents an unacceptable and severe risk to pupil and staff safety, particularly for younger children who may lack road awareness. A number of accidents have been recorded outside the school in recent times.

**Traffic Congestion and Emergency Access:** Increased HGV movements will exacerbate existing traffic congestion, potentially impeding access for emergency services to the school or local area during crucial hours.

**Mitigation Measures Inadequate:** We object to the proposed traffic management as it fails to adequately guarantee zero HGV movements during the critical school peak times. Any reliance on voluntary compliance or general traffic controls is insufficient to protect our pupils

**Limiting our pupil's exposure to events in the town:** If the plan was to go ahead the increase in HGVs in the town would impact our pupils' involvement in activities throughout the Croom including use of the local church and GAA grounds (includes a crossing of Croom Bridge) and the local park. All of these school trips would be subject to a risk assessment and the presence of a constant flow of

## 5. Grounds

heavy goods vehicles through Croom would lead to the children (including our Autism Classes) being confined to school grounds.



Far left- school entrance/Manning bus entrance/Manister road and Bruff rd. R516



School Entrance -St. Mary's NS

## 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

☐ Yes

## 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.

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**For Office Use Only**

<b>FEM – Received</b>		<b>SIDS – Processed</b>	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

**Notes**