

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

Ballinlee Wind Farm – Individual Submission

Submitted by: Ian Dooley

Current Residence: 0/1 St. Georges Road, Glasgow, Scotland

Permanent Family Address: Camas South, Bruff, County Limerick, V35 EH72

Date: 16/11/2025

1. Personal Standing

My name is Ian Dooley. I am currently working and living in Glasgow, Scotland, originally from Camas South, Bruff, County Limerick. Although I now live abroad, my connection to the area remains strong. It is the place where I grew up, where my family still lives, and where I hope to return more permanently in the future.

I support and align with the observations set out in the Dooley Family Submission. This personal submission focuses on the loss of landscape character, the social division created by the development process, and the wider implications for rural heritage and community wellbeing.

2. Grounds for Objection

2.1 Community Cohesion and Social Division

I have been saddened to see how the confidential nature of negotiations and the lack of early consultation have created tension between neighbours. The developer's own Community Engagement Report documents hostility and mistrust, clear evidence that the process has damaged social cohesion. Projects of this scale should bring communities together around shared benefit, not divide them through secrecy and exclusion. Only those who stand to benefit financially were consulted. Those of us who may be, in some cases, closer to these colossal objects but stand to gain nothing financially (in fact, we may be hurt financially due to the price of our beloved land and property declining) were not consulted.

2.2 Fairness and Representation

Many younger members of rural communities, including myself, live and work elsewhere but remain invested in the future of our home place. The planning process offers little opportunity for people like us to participate or be consulted, even though the decisions being made will affect our families and our inherited environment for decades. That

exclusion runs counter to the principles of fairness and democratic participation that should underpin public decision-making.

2.3 Ecological damage

The area around Ballinlee is simply unfit for hosting these colossal objects. Photo evidence in our family submission will demonstrate that water regularly accumulates on the fields where Ballinlee Green Energy proposes to construct these objects. The company was strategic in conducting its trial pit test in August (to test for water in the soil) - the driest time of year. Those of us who have lived in Ballinlee know that the water table is highly variable and 'lake-like' conditions can occur in the winter months - evidence of this is outlined in the family submission. Swans can often be seen making the temporary lake their home at that time of year. No consideration of this fact was taken into account by the company.

3. Personal Impact Statement

Even from abroad, I feel the impact of this development deeply. Each time I visit home, I see the landscape as part of who we are as a family and as a community. The thought that it could be fundamentally altered for commercial gain, without genuine local consent, is disheartening. It represents a broader issue, the marginalisation of rural communities in decisions that shape their identity and future. It is fundamentally anti-democratic. Large capitalists who stand to make enormous financial gain move in, destroy the fabric of local communities who have no say in the matter, and it is only after that project gets the green light that we as a community have an opportunity to come together to defend ourselves.

4. Conclusion and Requested Determination

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the Ballinlee Wind Farm in its current form. The process has failed to respect community heritage, social cohesion, and intergenerational representation. The project may deliver energy, but at the cost of the cultural and environmental fabric of the place it occupies. Offshore wind farms are the future and should be prioritised over this type of project; they avoid public unrest while still accomplishing our goal of declining carbon emissions.

If the application is to be reconsidered, I urge the Board to require a process that recognises the value of rural identity, ensures transparency and consultation, and balances national climate goals with community integrity.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind regards,
Ian Dooley.