

The Secretary,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Holycross,
Grange,
Kilmallock.
Co.Limerick
V35DY90

Case Reference: PAX91.323780

Date: 17TH November 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, Ballingayroure, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camass North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

To whom it may concern,

*I **Isobel Tierney** write in connection with the above listed planning application at Ballincurra, Ballingayroure, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.*

*I am writing to formally **object to the above planning application for the construction of a wind farm at the above locations.** While I recognise the importance of renewable energy and the need to transition towards sustainable sources, I believe this particular proposal is unsuitable for the following reasons:*

1. Construction Traffic and Road Wear

- *Wind turbines require the transport of **large components** (blades, tower sections, nacelles).*
- *This means **heavy trucks** will use the surrounding roads.*
- *These heavy loads can cause **temporary road damage**, such as:*
 - *Cracking or rutting in asphalt*
 - *Shoulder damage*
 - *Need for reinforcement or widening on tight curves*

. Temporary Road Closures

- *Installing turbines requires **cranes** and large trucks to block parts of a road.*
 - *Roads will experience: short-term closures, reduced speed limits, traffic diversions*

2 Visual Impact of Wind Turbines on Countryside Scenery

. High Visibility Due to Height

- *Modern turbines are very tall—160–200+ meters from base to blade tip.*
- *This means they will be seen from many miles away, especially in open farmland, plains, or rolling hills.*
- *They will become a dominant feature in our landscape.*
- *Moving Blades Draw Attention.*
- *The rotation of turbine blades naturally catches the eye.*
- *Movement makes them more prominent than static structures like barns or silos.*

Change to Landscape Character

Wind turbines can alter how the countryside feels:

- *From **traditional/rural** → to **modern/industrialized***
- *Lines of turbines create a sense of **patterned, engineered landscape***
- *This may conflict with:*
 - *Historic rural views*
 - *Heritage sites*
 - *Scenic or protected landscapes*

Impact on Horizon Lines

- *Turbines often break natural or historic **skyline/horizon silhouettes**, such as hills or ridges.*
- *This will change iconic wide-open views known for their simplicity in my area I live.*

. Night Lighting

- *Aviation safety lights (usually blinking red) will affect the **night time view**, especially:*
 - *In dark-sky regions where I live.*

Negative Perceptions

- ***Industrialize** the countryside*
- *Create **visual clutter***
- *Reduce the scenic, untouched quality of natural or heritage landscapes It will affect property views and rural tranquillity#*

. 3 Habitat Disruption of Wild life:

Building wind farms will disturb local habitats, birds and bats will fly into the massive long blades hence reducing the number of wildlife in my area.

- **Land clearance:** Installing wind turbines often requires clearing land for turbine bases, access roads, and transmission lines.

Ecosystems affected: Grasslands, forests and wetlands, are altered or fragmented, affecting species that rely on continuous habitats. **Collision risk:** Fast-spinning blades can injure or kill birds and bats. Species that fly at turbine height are especially vulnerable.

- **Noise and vibration:** Turbine operation produces low-frequency noise and vibrations, which can disturb sensitive species.
- **Changes in vegetation:** Construction can alter drainage patterns, soil composition, and plant communities, indirectly affecting habitat quality.

4 Impacts on Soil and Ecology:

1. **Construction Disturbance**
 - Building turbines requires clearing land, digging foundations, and creating access roads. This can lead to **soil compaction**, erosion, and disruption of local flora and fauna.
2. **Vegetation Removal**
 - Removing vegetation exposes soil to wind and rain, increasing erosion risk.
 - Loss of plant cover affects soil nutrient cycles.
3. **Altered Water Runoff**
 - Paved access roads or turbine pads can change drainage patterns, potentially causing localized erosion or waterlogging.
2. **Indirect Ecological Effects**
 - Turbine installations fragment habitats, which will indirectly affect soil ecosystems by changing animal behaviour or plant dispersal.

How Wind Turbines Could Affect Cattle

There are a few mechanisms by which wind turbines will influence cattle stress:

a. Noise

- Wind turbines produce a low-frequency “whooshing” and mechanical noise.
- Chronic noise exposure can trigger **stress responses in animals**, including increased cortisol levels, agitation, or changes in behaviour.

b. Shadow Flicker

- The rotating blades create intermittent shadows, known as **shadow flicker**, which can startle animals.
- Cattle can be wary of moving blades.

c. Vibration

- Large turbines can cause ground vibrations, can cause significant stress.

d. Visual Disturbance

- *Large moving structures in a pasture can be perceived as a threat to animals, potentially affecting feeding or movement patterns.*

I myself work part time in a veterinary clinic and there are farmers saying that they are worried about how it will affect their livestock and the soil for their tillage will be destroyed by the large wires that will be placed underground and will affect the eco system.

- *In conclusion, I respectfully request that the planning authority **refuse** this application on the grounds of landscape harm, residential impact, and environmental concerns. I urge the council to seek alternative renewable energy solutions that are more appropriately sited and less harmful to local communities and the environment.*
- *I recognise the importance of wind energy in meeting Ireland's National renewable energy targets and addressing climate change. However, this development is unsuitable for these locations and fails to take proper account of the environmental, social and cultural impacts on the local area.*
- *This wind farm would permanently alter the rural character of the area and expose nearby residents to health and amenity risks, devalue local properties and threaten the long term sustainability of our community. For these reasons, I ask that the Board refuse planning permission.*
- *I strongly urge that this development be rejected for the reasons outlined above.*
- *Thank you for considering this submission and objection.*

Kind Regards,

Isobel Tierney.

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