

John Mulqueen.
Ballinrea,
Bruff,
Co. Limerick.

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1, D01 V902.

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm – Co. Limerick

Reference: An Coimisiún Pleanála Case Ref. PAX91.323780

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm, near Bruff, Co. Limerick. My home lies approximately 640 metres from the nearest turbine and is positioned directly between two proposed clusters, exposing my property to cumulative impacts. My family and I have lived and worked here all our lives, and we are now at a stage where we are planning for our future and that of our children. However, if this project proceeds, it will completely destroy those plans and have a devastating impact on both our family and the wider community.

The visual impact of the proposed turbines will be enormous, with multiple turbines clearly visible from both the front and back of our home. The turbines will dominate what is currently a beautiful, peaceful rural landscape, replacing it with an industrial setting that is entirely out of character with our surroundings. Our countryside views — one of the main reasons we built our home here — will be lost forever.

We also have serious concerns about the suitability of this location. Local wind speeds are not sufficient to justify a development of this scale. This fact will become evident over time, but by then, the damage to the landscape, environment, and community will already be irreversible. It raises major questions about the logic behind the chosen site, the consistency of planning guidelines, and whether the development process is being applied fairly.

The potential health impacts are deeply worrying. The stress and anxiety caused by the uncertainty and disturbance of this project are already being felt within our family. The forecasted construction period and the long-term operation of the turbines will bring continuous noise, vibration, and shadow flicker — all of which are known to negatively affect physical and mental wellbeing. Low-frequency noise and infrasound are particular concerns, especially for family members who work shift patterns and depend on rest during the day.

The construction phase, anticipated to last 18–24 months, will result in significant disruption. With five turbines on one side, twelve on the other, and an access road passing just over 100 metres from our home, there will be no place on our property to escape the noise, shadow flicker, or visual dominance of these structures. Heavy vehicle convoys, often operating at night, will pass just over 100 metres from our home. The developer projects up to 170 convoys per day, totaling more than 18,000 heavy goods vehicle movements. This level of

activity will generate persistent noise, vibration, traffic hazards, and safety risks, particularly on narrow rural roads. Sleep disturbance, fatigue, and stress are unavoidable for local residents, especially vulnerable groups. Local roads and bridges, including those in Bruff, are not built to accommodate such traffic, and recent incidents highlight the real risk of lasting structural damage and visual impact.

The effects will not stop with people. Our family pets, dairy animals, and local wildlife will also suffer. Noise, vibration, and light disturbance will disrupt animals' natural behaviour, routines, and wellbeing. The surrounding habitats will be permanently altered, driving wildlife away and reducing biodiversity in the area.

Living near a construction site or an industrial wind farm can increase stress levels, which may affect blood pressure. The constant noise, vibrations, and visual disruption can trigger temporary spikes, and over time may worsen cardiovascular strain. As I am already taking prescription medication to manage my blood pressure, these additional environmental stressors could make it more difficult to maintain stable control.

I am deeply concerned about the potential devaluation of my property as a result of this development. A study by the University of Galway has shown that homes located within one kilometre of a wind turbine can lose around 14.7% of their value. Our home is less than 640 metres from the nearest turbine and positioned between two clusters, which makes this risk both immediate and very real. Any such reduction in value would seriously undermine our financial security and long-term plans, as our home represents the investment of a lifetime and our main form of future financial stability. Having now reached the end of our mortgage, this property is effectively our pension, and the prospect of it being devalued due to proximity to turbines adds enormous financial and emotional pressure on top of the already significant health and wellbeing concerns.

We are also extremely concerned about the impact on the ground and local infrastructure. Our property lies on soft, marshy bogland. The heavy construction machinery, turbine foundations, and access roadworks proposed will have catastrophic consequences for the stability of the land. Our roadside has already shown signs of subsidence, with sections of the road in front of our house having to be resurfaced several times in recent years. Adding such a heavy industrial development will only worsen this issue, likely damaging property boundaries, drainage, and the structural integrity of nearby homes.

It is disappointing that landowners involved appear to have prioritised short-term financial gain over the wellbeing of their neighbours and community. There are more sustainable and less intrusive alternatives, such as solar farms, which could generate renewable energy without destroying the visual landscape or impacting people's health and quality of life.

The Community Engagement Report provided by GreenSource does not accurately represent genuine local sentiment. The so-called 'survey' purporting to capture community attitudes towards the development is highly misleading. While a company representative visited residents' homes, no meaningful information about the project was shared, nor were residents given an opportunity to express their opinions in a structured or informed manner. There was no formal questionnaire, no consent obtained for data collection, and no independent oversight of the process. Instead, conclusions about community views appear to have been drawn from brief, informal exchanges. Such an approach cannot be regarded as fair or

ethical, as it distorts public opinion and undermines the credibility of the consultation process.

This proposal is completely inappropriate for our area — environmentally, socially, and economically. The cumulative noise, visual intrusion, and stress it will cause to local residents cannot be justified, particularly in a location where average wind speeds do not even support efficient turbine operation.

The cumulative effects of the proposed development cannot be overlooked. With 17 turbines planned in the Bruff area and a further 9 in the Charleville–Effin region, the total of 26 turbines will have a substantial visual, environmental, and social impact across the county. Developers are also considering additional windfarm projects nearby, including in Grange, less than 10 km from Bruff. The proliferation of large-scale industrial turbines across these neighboring communities will fundamentally transform the rural landscape, increase cumulative noise and shadow flicker, and place further pressure on local infrastructure and wildlife habitats. Collectively, these projects would create a continuous corridor of wind energy development, eroding the natural character and amenity of County Limerick.

The Whooper Swan, a protected species, will be directly affected by this development. Turbines T1 to T5 are located within key habitat zones and established flight paths, posing a significant risk of disturbance and collision. These swans are highly sensitive to noise, light, and movement, and the proposed turbine locations threaten to displace them from traditional feeding and resting areas. The Whooper Swan Management Plan submitted by the developer does not provide adequate protection or practical mitigation measures for these vulnerable birds, leaving them exposed to considerable risk during both construction and operation of the wind farm.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to reject this application in its entirety. Our community deserves protection from developments that offer little benefit yet bring permanent harm to our homes, health, environment, and way of life.

Yours sincerely,

John Mulqueen.