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Joseph Keating

Carrigeen

Bruff

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V35 V659

The Secretary,

An Coimisiún Pleanála,

64 Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1,

D01 V902

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 and ancillary development. Located in Ballincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

Introduction

I wish to object to the proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm and associated substation and grid connection. I have lived in this area for many years, and it has always been my peace and my

home.

I live with several ongoing health conditions, both physical and mental. The calmness of my surroundings, the quiet of the land, and the familiarity of the landscape help me to manage my health and keep some quality of life.

I do not want to spend the remainder of the short time I have left surrounded by the noise, movement, and intrusion of these turbines. I believe it would take away the one constant source of peace that I have my home and the nature around it.

A full list of my medical conditions can be obtained from my doctor, but I do not think it is right that people should have to make their private health information public in order to be heard. The fact that personal objections are made publicly available discourages vulnerable or unwell people from taking part, which goes against the spirit of public participation.

Human Health and Mental Wellbeing

The EIAR (Chapter 5: Population and Human Health) fails to consider mental wellbeing, despite clear legal obligations under EU Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU.

It only looks at measurable, physical impacts — like noise levels and air quality — but ignores what it means for real people to live under the constant visual and audible pressure of turbines.

I already experience mental health difficulties and limited mobility. I spend most of my time at home. The natural quiet, the view of the fields, and the rhythm of the countryside give me calm. The constant turbine noise, shadow flicker, and the sense of being overlooked will destroy that balance.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Environmental Noise Guidelines, 2018 clearly show that prolonged environmental noise can cause sleep disturbance, anxiety, and long-term stress-related illness.

This omission from the EIAR breaches both the EIA Directive and the Aarhus Convention.

which guarantee the right to live in a healthy environment and to have human health fully considered.

Lack of Assessment for Vulnerable and Housebound Residents

The EIAR assumes that people spend only part of their day at home. This is not true for individuals with long-term illness, reduced mobility, or disability.

As someone who is home most of the time, I would be exposed continuously to:

- noise
- flicker
- visual intrusion
- construction disturbance

This makes the EIAR's generic "average exposure" assessments inaccurate and discriminatory toward vulnerable residents.

No Assessment of Stress Responses in Older Adults

Older people are more sensitive to chronic noise, vibration, and environmental stressors.

The EIAR does not reference any geriatric health guidance or consider age-related impacts such as:

- increased anxiety
- sleep cycle disruption
- reduced resilience to stress
- cardiovascular vulnerability

This is a significant omission given the aging rural population around the site.

Landscape and Tranquillity

This area part of the Golden Vale has a quiet beauty that cannot be replaced. The EIAR fails to assess how industrialising the landscape with 160-metre turbines will affect residents' sense of

place and wellbeing.

For people like me, whose days are structured by small routines and the comfort of familiar views, this would be devastating.

The European Landscape Convention (2002) recognises landscape as a foundation for human identity and mental health. The EIAR's failure to reflect this, or to provide realistic photomontages showing true visual dominance and lighting impacts, makes the assessment incomplete and misleading.

Lack of Night-Time Visuals Affecting Residents Who Wake Frequently

Many older or unwell individuals experience disrupted sleep patterns and are awake during night-time hours. The EIAR provides no night-time photomontages showing aviation lighting or sky glow from turbines.

For someone already prone to night waking, red flashing lights across the skyline would be deeply disturbing.

No Winter Visibility Assessment

Winter is when outdoor peace is most important to me yet all photomontages appear to use summer foliage, hiding visibility.

Winter views would be far more exposed, but the EIAR ignores this.

Community and Social Impacts

The social fabric of our community is already under strain because of this proposal. Division, arguments, and uncertainty have created distress among neighbours and friends.

For those already struggling with mental health or isolation, that stress is amplified. The EIAR completely ignores this social damage, even though the Planning and Development Acts 2000–2024 define “environment” as including human beings and social wellbeing.

Loss of Informal Support Networks

People with health conditions rely on neighbours for informal support, companionship, and assistance.

This project has already caused division, meaning vulnerable people may lose the community relationships they depend on.

The EIAR does not acknowledge this essential social function of rural life.

Wildlife and the Land

Wildlife has always been part of the peace I find outdoors the birds, the bats, and the whooper swans that rest nearby each winter.

The EIAR does not properly assess these species. It omits winter surveys and fails to comply with the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), which protect both the species and their natural habitats.

To destroy them is to destroy part of what makes this countryside whole.

Additional Relevant Point

No Consideration of Wildlife as Therapeutic or Beneficial to Mental Health

For many people, including myself, observing wildlife is a source of comfort, routine, and grounding.

The removal or disturbance of these species is not just an ecological impact. It is a personal loss that directly affects wellbeing.

The EIAR does not acknowledge this human connection to nature.

Flooding and Land Disturbance

The land here floods regularly; the fields hold water and feed into each other. Deep excavation for turbine foundations and grid cabling could worsen flooding and affect local wells.

The Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive require that no project cause deterioration of water quality or increase flood risk. The EIAR fails to demonstrate compliance.

Conclusion

I am not against renewable energy, but it must be done responsibly, with proper assessment of real human and environmental impacts.

This proposal will destroy the calm, heritage, and landscape that give our area its meaning. For someone like me, it would remove the last source of peace and stability that I have.

I respectfully request that permission for this development is refused. It does not meet the legal or moral standards required under Irish and EU environmental law, and it fails to consider people like me those who will have to live with the consequences every single day.

Kind Regards,

Joseph Keating.