

Oisin 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 strongly object to the proposed wind farm in our area. As a young person currently studying agriculture in college, my goal has always been to live and work here, to continue our family's connection to the land, and to build my future in the place I grew up. This project, however, makes that dream feel impossible. The scale and location of the development would completely change the area, making it an industrial zone rather than a rural community.

My family home is just 640 metres from the nearest turbine, and our property sits between two turbine clusters — meaning we would be surrounded from both sides. The noise, vibration, and constant shadow flicker from the turbines will have a serious impact on daily life. I have always imagined starting a small farm here, but it would be unbearable to live and work in an environment with constant noise and movement dominating every part of the day.

There are 179 homes within one kilometre of the proposed turbines. This isn't just about one house — it affects the whole community. Our countryside is valued for its peace, its natural beauty, and the sense of belonging people have here. We didn't move to the country to be surrounded by industrial machinery. With five turbines on one side, twelve on the other, and an access road just over 100 metres from our home, there would be no quiet space left on our land — not for us, our animals, or the wildlife that lives here.

Property value is another serious concern. According to a University of Galway study, homes within one kilometre of wind turbines can lose around 14.7% of their value. Being only 640 metres from the nearest turbine and surrounded by several others means our home is at high risk of devaluation. For my family, this home represents years of hard work — and for me, it's the foundation I hoped to build my future on. The idea that its value could drop so significantly makes it harder for someone like me to stay and start out here.

The turbine layout also fails to meet recommended guidelines. The 2006 standards state that turbines should be three diameters apart crosswind and seven diameters apart downwind — but this proposal doesn't meet those distances. This means higher cumulative noise levels for residents. It's also important to note that those guidelines are almost 20 years old and were

written for much smaller turbines. They don't reflect the scale or noise levels of modern industrial turbines.

The 18–24 months of construction would bring major disruption. The developer estimates up to 170 vehicle convoys per day, with over 18,000 heavy goods vehicles in total. Many of these will pass within just over 100 metres of our home. The impact on local roads, particularly the ones near Bruff, would be enormous — they were never built for this level of heavy traffic. There will be noise, vibration, dust, and safety risks every day, and local roads could suffer permanent damage.

The access road proposed for the site is on a bend with poor visibility (L1414). I drive this route regularly, and it's already a dangerous stretch. Adding hundreds of heavy lorries daily will make it far more unsafe for everyone — especially local farmers moving machinery, cyclists, and young drivers like myself.

The proposed substation, covering between one and one and a half hectares, is also worrying. Its size and location so close to homes will bring more noise, vibration, and visual intrusion. It adds to the cumulative effect of the turbines and roads, further damaging the landscape and quality of life for everyone nearby.

We also have animals on the land, including dogs and livestock, that are sensitive to noise and vibration. The construction phase alone — with its heavy machinery, night-time work, and traffic — would cause them stress. Research shows that low-frequency noise from turbines can affect animals' behaviour and wellbeing, which makes me concerned about farming and animal welfare in the area.

The construction phase and ongoing vibration from the turbines will also disrupt local wildlife habitats. Animals such as deer and badgers are highly sensitive to noise and ground vibration, and the disturbance will likely force them to move from their established habitats into surrounding farmland. This displacement poses a serious biosecurity risk, as the movement of badgers in particular is known to contribute to the spread of bovine TB. Our area has already suffered greatly from TB outbreaks, with many farmers losing livestock and income. Any activity that increases this risk would have devastating consequences for the local farming community and rural economy.

Turbines T1 to T5 are located directly within the known habitats and regular flight path of the protected Whooper Swans that migrate through this area each year. These birds are a legally protected species under the EU Birds Directive, and their established routes are well documented by both local observers and national wildlife data. The Whooper Swan Management Plan prepared by Green Source fails to adequately address the real risks posed by turbine placement, particularly collision risk and loss of feeding grounds. In addition, the surrounding woodland areas provide vital habitat for red squirrels, another protected native species. The clearance and disturbance caused by turbine construction, access roads, and maintenance activity will fragment their habitat, disrupt feeding areas, and threaten the long-term stability of the local population. Together, these impacts represent a serious threat to biodiversity that has not been properly assessed or mitigated in the current proposal.

If permission is granted, the company has up to 10 years to begin construction. This means our family could be stuck in limbo for a decade, unable to sell or plan for the future. As

someone trying to start a life here — to build a home and a career — that uncertainty makes it almost impossible to move forward.

There's also the wider impact to consider. The upcoming Ryder Cup will bring global attention to Limerick. The Junior Ryder Cup in Ballyneety will take place along the same route planned for underground cable works. These roadworks will cause major disruption, traffic delays, and visual blight during a time when our county should be welcoming visitors and showing its best side. Such large-scale construction could damage Limerick's reputation and affect tourism and investment for years.

For me, this is not just about planning regulations — it's about having a future here. I've always wanted to stay in this area, to farm, and to raise a family where I grew up. But the thought of living beside these turbines, dealing with the constant noise, construction, and uncertainty, makes me question whether I can stay. This project takes away the very reasons young people like me want to live in rural Ireland — peace, nature, and community.

I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to listen to the local voices and consider the long-term harm this project would cause to our community, our environment, and the next generation who want to live and work here.

For all the reasons outlined above, I strongly object to this proposal and ask that it be refused in full.

Yours sincerely,
Oisín Mulqueen.