

Patrica Mulqueen.
Crean,
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 wish to raise my strong objection to the proposed wind farm development in our area. My home is located approximately 640 metres from the nearest proposed turbine, and there are five turbines positioned within just two kilometres of our property. Living and helping out on a farm, this proposal poses serious risks not only to our home and peace of mind, but also to our animals, daily farm operations, and the overall wellbeing of our family.

One of the greatest concerns for us as a farming family is how the constant noise, vibration, and traffic will affect both our pets and livestock. Our animals are used to a calm, rural setting — the same peace and quiet that drew us to live and farm here. Sudden, loud noises, flashing lights, and vibration from turbine operation and heavy vehicle movements can easily startle cattle, particularly when we're crossing them on local roads. These roads are already narrow and not designed for industrial traffic, and the increased volume of construction vehicles poses serious risks for both animals and people. Managing livestock safely under those conditions would be extremely difficult, stressful, and potentially dangerous.

In addition to this, we have pets — dogs and cats — who are sensitive to noise. They are part of our family and spend most of their time outdoors. The combination of construction noise, vibration, and infrasound could cause significant distress and behavioural changes. It is unfair that the animals we care for so deeply, who rely on a peaceful environment, will be subjected to such disruption.

Personally, I am a light sleeper and already rely on prescribed medication to help me sleep. The thought of months — or even years — of heavy traffic at all hours, along with night-time deliveries and construction noise, fills me with dread. Continuous disruption of this kind would severely impact my mental health and ability to function day to day. Sleep deprivation leads to stress, exhaustion, and anxiety, and I fear the long-term toll this could take on my wellbeing. The World Health Organization's Night Noise Guidelines (2009) recommend limits that this project would almost certainly exceed, especially given the proposed night-time transport schedule.

I also suffer from ongoing lung problems, which already make it difficult to cope with dust, fumes, and air pollution. The additional emissions from heavy construction traffic, diesel machinery, and disturbed soil will have a serious impact on my breathing and overall health. Even short exposure to construction dust or exhaust fumes can trigger coughing, breathlessness, and chest tightness. Living so close to the access route and the turbine sites means I will be constantly exposed to airborne particles and pollutants, which would make managing my condition far more difficult and put my long-term health at real risk.

The proximity of so many turbines also raises concerns about property devaluation. The University of Galway has published research showing that homes within 1 kilometre of turbines can lose an average of 14.7% of their value. Our home is not only our place of rest but also our investment and security for the future. Knowing that this project could strip away a significant portion of that value is both distressing and deeply unfair.

Another issue that cannot be ignored is the severe threat this development poses to local wildlife. Each year, Whooper Swans can be seen migrating through this area, often flying directly over the fields and wetlands surrounding our home. Turbines T1 to T5 are positioned right in the middle of their established flight paths and feeding habitats. These are protected birds under EU law, and the risk of collision or disturbance is incredibly high, especially during low visibility or poor weather. Watching these swans return every winter has always been a special sight — a reminder of the natural beauty and balance of our rural landscape. To see that threatened by industrial turbines is heart-breaking.

Similarly, red squirrels are regularly seen in the local forestry and tree lines around Carrigeen and Camas South. They are a protected native species, already under pressure from habitat loss. The proposed turbine sites, access roads, and associated works will destroy parts of their habitat and cut off vital foraging and nesting areas. The construction activity alone — with noise, tree removal, and ground disturbance — will drive these animals away from an environment where they have thrived for generations.

As a farming family, we take pride in contributing to the local economy and maintaining the land for future generations. This development threatens that way of life. The combination of constant heavy traffic, turbine noise, shadow flicker, and construction disturbance will make living and working here intolerable. Our farm operates on early mornings and late evenings — the very times when we rely on quiet and calm. To have this replaced with constant industrial activity is unimaginable.

We also live beside land used by Rathmore Stud, where thoroughbred horses are bred and raised. These horses are known to be extremely sensitive to sudden noises, vibrations, and movement. The constant construction activity, turbine noise, and flashing lights from this development could easily startle them, posing risks not only to their welfare but also to the safety of those caring for them. Horses, especially thoroughbreds, are highly reactive animals, and any loud or unexpected disturbance can cause panic and injury.

This isn't just a matter of animal welfare — it could also have serious economic and employment consequences. The equine industry is a vital part of our local economy, and operations like Rathmore Stud and Islanmore Stud provide valuable jobs and business to the wider community. Any negative impact on breeding, training, or animal welfare could have a direct knock-on effect on employment and on the stability of one of the few rural industries still thriving in this area.

We understand the need for renewable energy, but it should not come at the expense of rural families, livelihoods, and the wildlife that shares this landscape with us. Developments of this industrial scale should be sited responsibly — away from homes, farms, and protected habitats where they will cause such significant and lasting damage.

For these reasons, and in support of all the residents who will be affected, I strongly object to this project going ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Patrica Mulqueen.