

Rita Keating

Carrigeen

Bruff

Co.Limerick

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 110 kV substation and grid connection on the grounds of health, road safety, environmental and heritage impacts, and insufficient assessment within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). I live in

the affected area and work shift hours, which means I depend on restful daytime sleep and safe, quiet roads at all hours.

Human Health and Sleep Disturbance

I already experience disrupted sleep patterns due to shift work, and I am deeply concerned that the constant low-frequency turbine noise and shadow flicker will further affect my ability to rest. The EIAR fails to assess individual homes or receptor-specific noise levels, instead offering generalised models.

The **World Health Organization (WHO) Environmental Noise Guidelines (2018)** clearly identify that chronic sleep disturbance can lead to increased stress, cardiovascular risk, and impaired mental wellbeing.

Despite this, **Chapter 5 (Population and Human Health)** of the EIAR treats health in purely physical terms and does not consider psychological effects or sleep disturbance, which is inconsistent with the **EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)** that defines “human health” to include mental wellbeing.

European case law, including **Edwards v Environment Agency (C-260/11)**, reinforces that environmental decision-making must account for real human impacts.

Road Safety and Access

I regularly walk to work early in the morning, often before sunrise. My route includes narrow rural roads which, according to the EIAR’s Transport and Traffic section, will experience prolonged heavy vehicle use during the two-year construction phase.

The EIAR fails to adequately assess pedestrian safety or propose mitigation for local road users who walk or cycle. The planned HGV movements, particularly during hours of darkness or low visibility, pose a significant risk to residents.

Under the **Planning and Development Regulations 2001–2024**, all significant traffic impacts on existing road users must be fully considered and mitigated before consent is granted. No such measures are evident.

Landscape, Community, and Heritage

The turbines, each over 160 metres tall, would dominate the local skyline and alter the character of the Golden Vale. This area has a distinctive rural and heritage identity tied to **Lough Gur** and surrounding archaeological features protected under the **National Monuments Acts 1930–2014**. The EIAR omits sufficient photomontages from key viewpoints, particularly those showing night lighting and shadow flicker, which are required under best-practice visual impact assessment.

This project also risks fragmenting our community — dividing neighbours and disrupting the peaceful rural life we value. The EIAR makes no acknowledgment of social cohesion or mental health implications.

Hydrology and Flooding

Our locality is prone to flooding and waterlogging during heavy rainfall. The EIAR acknowledges floodplain connectivity but does not provide site-specific flood modelling or mitigation measures for displaced water caused by turbine bases, cable trenches, or new access tracks. This may worsen existing flooding on nearby lands, contrary to the **EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)** and the **Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**.

Public Consultation and Access to Information

At no stage was I directly informed by the developers of the true scale of this project or its impacts.

Information provided was difficult to interpret and incomplete, breaching **the Aarhus**

Convention which guarantees the public's right to early, effective, and informed participation in environmental decision-making.

I want to end by speaking not as someone quoting laws or technical reports, but as a woman who simply wants to live safely, peacefully, and with dignity in her own community. I work shift hours, and I depend on quiet daytime rest and safe roads at all times of the day and night. The truth is that this project has already caused me worry, stress, and sleeplessness, long before a single turbine has even arrived.

I am genuinely frightened about what this development would mean for my health and wellbeing. Sleep is something I already struggle with because of my working hours, and the idea of constant low-frequency noise and flicker outside my home fills me with dread. The EIAR does not consider people like me ordinary residents who live close by, who work unsociable hours, and who will carry the real burden of these impacts every single day.

I am also deeply concerned about the safety of our roads. I walk to work in the early hours, often in darkness. These are narrow rural lanes with no footpaths and very limited visibility. The thought of heavy construction traffic thundering past me in those conditions genuinely scares me. I don't feel seen or heard in the EIAR, and I don't believe the developer has understood how dangerous this will be for people like me who have no choice but to walk these roads.

The landscape and heritage of this area mean so much to me. This is where I raised my family, where I walk, where I find calm, and where generations before us have lived, worked, and been laid to rest. The idea that towering structures, flashing lights, and industrial activity could replace the quiet countryside I love breaks my heart. The EIAR doesn't show the whole truth not the views from places that matter most, not the graveyards, not the community spaces, not the roads we use every day. It feels like the things that matter to us simply didn't matter to them.

I'm also worried about flooding, because we all know how quickly the fields and roads here fill during heavy rain. Nothing in the reports reassures me that this won't get worse. And the wildlife we share this place with the birds, the bats, the animals that move through our fields they too are barely acknowledged. It feels like pieces of our home are being treated as disposable, and that is deeply upsetting.

What hurts most is how little we were included. Nobody came to speak to me. Nobody asked how I live, how I sleep, how I travel, or what this place means to me. I was left to read through overwhelming documents and try to understand impacts that will change my daily life in ways the developers will never experience.

This is my home, my routine, my safety, my peace. These turbines would not be temporary; they would be part of my life for decades. And I am asking you from a very real and very personal place to please consider the human cost of this development. It might look like lines on a map in a report, but to me, it is the difference between feeling safe or unsafe, rested or exhausted, connected to my community or overshadowed by it.

I am not against progress, but I cannot accept a project that places such a heavy burden on the people who live closest to it while offering us nothing in return. I respectfully ask you to refuse this application, so that our homes, our health, our roads, and our heritage can be protected, and so that people like me can continue to live our lives without fear or disruption.

Conclusion

Given these shortcomings in the EIAR, and the serious risks to health, safety, and community wellbeing, I respectfully request that planning permission for the Ballinlee Wind Farm be refused.

Kind regards,

Rita Keating