

Scoil Dean Cussen

Bruff
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Date: 18th November 2025

To whom it may concern,

The Board of Management of Scoil Dean Cussen NS wish to express concerns regarding the proposed wind farm at Ballincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick. (www.ballinleegreenenergyplanning.ie) - 323780.

Scoil Dean Cussen (Eircode V35FT99) is a primary school under the patronage of the Diocese of Limerick. We have 9 mainstream classes and two special classes, which cater for children with autism, many of whom have complex needs. Our school is located approximately 1.5 kilometres from the closest turbine, and we have concerns regarding the potential impact this project would have on the health, safety, and welfare of our pupils, staff, and the wider school community. The 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which are still currently in place, are very outdated and were not formulated with subsequent technological advances and 160m high turbines in mind.

It is imperative that all our children, and the children in our special classes in particular, live in, and attend school in, an environment that supports their learning needs. We have concerns that this proposed development has the potential to adversely affect the pupils and staff in our school, particularly with respect to noise disturbance, shadow flicker and low-frequency vibration. Many of our pupils live in the heart of the area outlined for this proposal and it is the welfare of these pupils in particular that concerns us.

The following are some of our concerns regarding this proposed project:

1. Health and Wellbeing Concerns

Research indicates that proximity to large-scale wind turbines can lead to adverse effects such as noise disturbance, shadow flicker, and low-frequency vibration. These factors can be particularly disruptive to young children, affecting concentration, sleep patterns, and overall wellbeing. As a centre of learning and care for children, these potential impacts are of real concern to us, with our pupils with autism being particularly vulnerable.

2. Visual and Environmental Impact

The scale and visibility of the proposed turbines would significantly alter the rural character of our locality, which serves as an important and peaceful environment for our students, both at school and at home.

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3. Future Enrolment

There are difficulties associated with seeking planning permission in areas of close proximity to wind turbines (current guidelines recommend a minimum 500m distance). Therefore, in a rural area like our school community, the future enrolment potential of our school could be severely hampered - future generations could be prevented from building homes on their own land. This could lead to rural depopulation in our area, severely affecting our enrolment. We also have concerns about local parents sending their children to schools at a further distance from the turbines as a means of respite for their children.

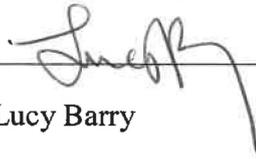
4. Increased Traffic in the Area

We would like to know if the school will be impacted in this way during the proposed construction process. Our school is situated near a lot of busy roads as it is, a further increase in traffic will lead to air pollution and distractions for the staff and children.

For these reasons, the **Board of Management of Scoil Dean Cussen** has very real concerns regarding this proposed wind turbine development and urges the planning authority to take these concerns into account.

We respectfully request that our submission be considered in full during the planning assessment process.

Yours faithfully,



Lucy Barry

Chairperson, Board of Management

Scoil Dean Cussen NS

Date: 18/11/2025