

Re: Submission on Proposed Bord na Móna / SSE Wind Farm Development – Eircode N37 YP08

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to make a submission regarding the proposed Bord na Móna / SSE wind farm development and its potential impact on my home and surrounding area at Eircode N37 YP08.

I am concerned about the predicted noise impacts associated with the proposed turbines and the limitations of the noise assessment presented within the application. I understand that the turbines have not yet been constructed and therefore the applicant has relied on computer modelling rather than actual measured turbine noise at individual homes. As a result, the figures presented are only predictive estimates and may not accurately reflect the real experience of residents once the turbines become operational.

I am particularly concerned about the cumulative effect of multiple turbines operating together and whether the assessment fully reflects the combined impact on nearby homes and rural living conditions. Noise in a rural environment can behave differently depending on wind direction, weather conditions, peatland terrain and night-time atmospheric conditions. The application appears to rely heavily on representative monitoring points rather than measurements specific to individual dwellings.

My family and I value the peace and quiet of this rural area. I am concerned about potential sleep disturbance, continuous whooshing or thumping noise, tonal noise, low-frequency noise and the long-term impact these may have on wellbeing, stress levels and quality of life. Even where predicted noise levels are stated to comply with guidelines, the constant nature of turbine noise in a quiet countryside setting may still have a significant adverse effect on residents.

I also wish to raise concerns regarding the cumulative impact of this development together with existing infrastructure and developments already affecting the area, including wind energy infrastructure, roads, substations and associated works. There is concern that the area is becoming increasingly industrialised, altering the rural character, visual amenity and peaceful enjoyment of the landscape.

My home at Eircode N37 YP08 appears to fall within the wider cumulative noise and shadow flicker influence area of the proposed development. I am concerned that the assessment relies on predictive modelling rather than actual measured impacts at my dwelling, despite the proximity of multiple proposed 220m turbines. Given the quiet rural nature of the area, I believe there is a significant risk of disturbance from cumulative turbine noise, night-time operational noise and potential shadow flicker impacts affecting my family's quality of life, wellbeing and peaceful enjoyment of our home.

I also wish to highlight serious concerns regarding the condition of the existing local roads serving this area. Many of the roads are already narrow, uneven and affected by significant

potholes and surface deterioration. Residents already experience difficulty using these roads safely in their current condition.

There is concern that the volume and weight of construction traffic associated with the proposed development, including heavy goods vehicles, cranes and machinery, would further damage already fragile rural roads and create additional safety risks for residents, pedestrians, cyclists, school transport, farmers and other road users. The existing infrastructure does not appear suitable for sustained industrial-scale construction traffic without substantial upgrading and long-term maintenance commitments.

I also wish to highlight that the local bog roads are regularly used by children and families in the area for recreational purposes, including cycling, walking and outdoor activity. Due to the rural nature of the locality, these roads provide one of the few relatively straight and quiet stretches of road that can be safely used by local children for cycling and recreation.

There is concern that the significant increase in heavy construction traffic associated with the proposed development would substantially reduce the safety of these roads for recreational and community use. Increased volumes of heavy goods vehicles, construction machinery and abnormal loads on narrow rural roads may create additional risks for children, pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users who currently use these roads safely as part of everyday rural life.

In addition, I have concerns regarding:

- the condition and suitability of local bog and rural roads for construction traffic;
- impacts on peatlands, drainage and water systems;
- potential impacts on local wildlife, biodiversity and habitats;
- visual impacts across the landscape;
- effects on local heritage, rural character and sense of place; and
- the broader cumulative effect of ongoing development pressure in the area.

There is also concern regarding emergency access and general road safety during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development. Many of the local rural roads are narrow with limited visibility, soft edges and restricted passing space. Increased heavy traffic may obstruct or delay access for emergency services, agricultural vehicles, local residents and school transport using these routes on a daily basis.

Residents are concerned that the existing road network was not designed for prolonged industrial-scale traffic movements associated with turbine construction and maintenance. Any deterioration in road conditions or traffic safety may have long-term consequences for those living in the area long after construction has concluded.

I am concerned that the long operational lifespan of the proposed development means that any adverse impacts experienced by nearby residents may continue for decades. While construction impacts may be temporary, issues such as turbine noise, shadow flicker, visual dominance and

disturbance to rural amenity may become permanent features of daily life for families living close to the development.

Residents should not be expected to bear an ongoing reduction in residential amenity and quality of life arising from large-scale industrial infrastructure within a traditionally quiet rural setting.

I also wish to raise concerns regarding the impact this development may have on the historical, cultural and archaeological heritage of the wider Lemanaghan area.

This landscape is not simply undeveloped bogland. The bogs and surrounding rural lands form part of an area with deep historical, monastic and cultural significance that has shaped local identity and community life for generations. The area contains important historical and archaeological features, including the historic ruins associated with St. Mangan's and the heritage of Lemanaghan itself, which is widely recognised for its early Christian monastic history and sacred landscape.

The nearby Lemanaghan Wells and associated heritage sites hold important historical, spiritual and cultural value locally and form part of the area's unique sense of place. Residents and visitors value these sites not only for their archaeological importance but also for their connection to local traditions, walking routes, quiet reflection and rural heritage.

The wider Lemanaghan and bogland area is also valued for its quiet rural amenity, natural landscape and recreational use by residents and visitors. People regularly use the area for walking, cycling, nature observation, heritage visits and quiet enjoyment of the countryside. The industrial scale of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure may negatively impact the attractiveness, tranquillity and recreational value of the area for both locals and visitors.

There is concern that the gradual industrialisation of the landscape could undermine the unique character of the area and diminish its value as a place of heritage, recreation and rural tourism within the Midlands.

There is concern that the scale and industrial nature of the proposed 220m turbines, together with associated infrastructure, roads and construction activity, would fundamentally alter the historic rural character and visual setting of this culturally significant landscape. The cumulative visual impact across the boglands may diminish the appreciation, atmosphere and integrity of these heritage assets and their surrounding environment.

I am also concerned about the gradual historical loss already experienced across the area through ongoing industrial and infrastructural development on peatlands and bog landscapes that have traditionally formed part of the natural and cultural heritage of the Midlands. Many residents feel that the landscape and identity of the area are already under increasing pressure, and this proposal risks further eroding the unique historical character, tranquillity and heritage value of the locality.

I also have concerns regarding potential impacts on peat stability, drainage patterns and water management within the bogland environment. Peatlands are sensitive landscapes and disturbance arising from excavation, road construction, turbine foundations and associated infrastructure may alter natural drainage systems and hydrology within the area.

Residents are concerned that changes to drainage or ground conditions may increase the risk of localised flooding, waterlogging or environmental degradation affecting surrounding lands, habitats and watercourses. Given the scale of the proposed development, I believe careful independent assessment and long-term monitoring of peat and drainage impacts are necessary.

I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála carefully examine the adequacy of the noise assessment, cumulative impact assessment, traffic management proposals and environmental protections proposed within this application before any decision is made.

I ask that full consideration be given to the lived experience of residents and families in the area who may be directly affected by this development over its operational lifetime.

Yours sincerely,

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