



St. Ciaran's & St. Manchan's National School

Boher, Ballycumber, Co. Offaly. R35 P448

May 25th 2026

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Case Reference: PAX19.324161

Re: Proposed Wind Farm Development at Lemanaghan Bog – Consideration of Impacts on School Environment

Applicant: Lemanaghan Wind Farm DAC, Bord na Móna / SSE Renewables joint venture

Description: Proposed development of 15 no. wind turbines, a permanent 220kV on-site substation, and associated infrastructure.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in my capacity as Principal of St Ciarán's & St Manchan's National School, Ballycumber, located approximately 2.2 km from the proposed turbines (T11), in relation to the above planning application. Our school has been identified within the receiving environment of the proposed development in Chapter 5 (Population and Human Health) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

However, in recent weeks, we have been contacted by members of the school community in light of the aforementioned application. In light of this, it was decided that it should be highlighted with the Board of Management. It was agreed that, while the school is acknowledged, there does not appear to be any detailed or school-specific assessment of the potential impacts on the school environment, staff, or pupils.

Given the proximity of the proposed development and its relationship to the surrounding landscape, we consider that a more detailed and site-specific assessment of potential impacts on the school environment is warranted.

In particular, we note the absence of any assessment in relation to:

- the potential for shadow flicker effects during school hours;
- the visual presence and movement of turbines as experienced from classrooms and outdoor play areas;
- the potential impact on the learning environment and overall wellbeing of pupils and staff;

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- the consideration of schools and educational settings as sensitive receptors within the assessment.

We further note that the EIAR assesses shadow flicker impacts on residential properties but does not extend this assessment to schools or educational facilities, despite classrooms being enclosed environments where such effects could arise during daylight hours.

As an educational provider, we have a duty of care to provide a safe, supportive, and appropriate learning environment for all pupils and staff, and we believe it is important that any potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development are fully understood and appropriately assessed.

In light of the above, we respectfully request that the potential impacts of the proposed development on schools and educational environments be fully and specifically assessed, including consideration of school locations as sensitive receptors.

We trust that these matters will be given due consideration as part of the planning process.

Regards,
Paul McKeon
Principal and Secretary of the Board of Management
St Ciarán's & St Manchan's National School

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