

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

David Curran
Pollnagroagh
Athenry
Galway
H65 D967

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Date: 25 May 2026

Re: Observation to the proposed development of a 220kV substation, telecommunications mast and underground electricity cable infrastructure with associated works.

Location: Rathmorrissey, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castletambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is David Curran. I am 39, born in Galway and raised in Athenry. I am deeply concerned about the impact of the proposed project Plant this relates to and its impact on my close family who live in the direct area of the proposed plant and its access routes.

The area in which this is proposed is home to a vibrant, thriving and tranquil rural community. It is not the right area for this proposed plant and access. Growing up, the benefits of living in a rural setting are so important and this puts all of that in jeopardy. Having a massive project like this so close by could be of huge detriment to our physical and mental health. I cannot stress enough how important it was to have an open, clean and thriving area as a home and how much we benefitted from that, this would now be gone for the next generation.

My brother, his wife and two young sons live within 850m of the proposed plant and my elderly parents live very close by. I am very concerned about the impact on their daily lives by the construction and operation of the plant. The potential impact on their health is frightening and the impact on the wider community from such

mass disruption will create so much heartache and stress for everyone.

The roads in this area are small in size and relatively appropriate to the community and needs. There is no capacity for the roads to be able to accommodate the mass construction needs for this project and would only lead to disruption and destruction.

Having reviewed the application documentation, I have outlined my concerns regarding the proposed development

Emissions Impact on Residents and Vulnerable Groups

Although this application relates to the proposed substation and mast, both form part of infrastructure required for the wider Cashla Peaker Project and the operation of the proposed gas-fired peaker plant. I am concerned about the potential impact of emissions associated with the overall development on local air quality and public health, particularly for nearby residents, children, older people and individuals with respiratory conditions.

Unsuitable Rural Location

I believe the proposed substation and mast are not suitable for this rural location. The development would introduce permanent industrial-scale infrastructure, including a 220kV substation, security fencing, lighting and telecommunications equipment, into an area characterised by homes, farms and open countryside.

Disruption to Rural and Residential Communities Along Route

The proposed 8.1km underground cable route would pass through a number of established rural and residential communities, including Rathmorrissey, Castletambert, Knocknacreeva, Caherbriskun, Lisheenkyle East and Cashla. These are active farming and residential areas with homes, schools, farms and local businesses located along narrow rural roads. I am concerned about the level of disruption the proposed works would cause to residents, farms, local roads and daily community life.

Damage to Hedgerows, Root Systems and Roadside Vegetation

The proposed cable route passes through established rural hedgerows, mature roadside vegetation and tree-lined sections which form part of the local biodiversity network and rural landscape character. I am concerned that trenching works and excavation activity could result in long-term damage to hedgerows, root systems and roadside vegetation throughout the area.

Narrow Roads, HGV Traffic and Increased Congestion

The roads surrounding Lisheenkyle National School are already heavily used by local traffic, school transport and agricultural vehicles. These roads are narrow, have restricted visibility and lack proper public hard shoulders. The only widened sections are private parking bays located outside newer houses, which remain the responsibility of homeowners and are not intended for pedestrian use or roadside safety. The introduction of heavy construction traffic, HGVs and stop/go traffic systems would significantly increase congestion and road safety risks for schoolchildren, residents and all road users.

Negative Effect on Residential Character and Quality of Life

The affected area forms part of a growing rural residential community within the wider Athenry area, where many families choose to live because of its rural character, agricultural setting and proximity to local towns, schools and employment centres. The area has experienced significant residential and commuter-related growth in recent years. I am concerned that the introduction of major energy infrastructure into this established rural environment would negatively affect the residential character, visual amenity and overall attractiveness of the area as a place to live and raise families, while also impacting the enjoyment and quality of life of existing residents and property owners.

Conclusion

I believe the proposed development is not suitable for this rural location and would contribute to the long-term industrialisation of the surrounding countryside. The likely impacts on homes, farms, schools, local roads, biodiversity and community life have not been fully addressed or adequately mitigated within the application documentation. For these reasons, I do not believe the proposal is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development, and I respectfully request that permission be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Curran', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Name: David Curran

Date: 25 May 2026