



Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's name

Martin Mc Namara

(b) Observer's postal address

Cartymore, Athenry

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else **on this observation**, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

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The agent at the postal address in Part 2

☐

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Coimisiún Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**

(for example: 300000)

324162

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Planning permission for a 220kV Substation and 220kV underground electricity cabling connecting to the existing Cashla 220kV substation

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

located in the townlands of Rathmorrissy, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark, Cashla, Athenry, County Galway.

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word** limit as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

Inadequacy of Existing Road Infrastructure

I wish to raise serious concerns regarding the capacity and suitability of the existing local road infrastructure to facilitate the construction and operation of the proposed development.

The local and regional roads serving the affected townlands are narrow, rural roads, many with limited carriageway width, poor alignment, and inadequate verges. These roads were never designed or intended to accommodate the scale, frequency, and weight of heavy construction traffic associated with a project of this magnitude, including the excavation and installation of 220kV underground cabling and the construction of a major electricity substation.

The EIAR and associated documentation do not, in my view, adequately demonstrate that:

Existing roads can safely accommodate abnormal loads and heavy goods vehicles without significant disruption or damage. Local residents, farmers, pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians can continue to use these roads without unacceptable risk or inconvenience. Road deterioration, edge collapse, drainage damage, and ongoing maintenance burdens will not arise as a consequence of the development. Any temporary or permanent road widening, strengthening, or alteration required to facilitate construction would itself constitute a significant adverse impact on the rural character of the area and would transfer the burden of national infrastructure onto local communities and local authority resources. In the absence of clear, enforceable commitments regarding traffic management, road protection, reinstatement, and liability for damage, I submit that the existing road network cannot reasonably facilitate this development without creating serious difficulty for local users. Taken as a whole, the proposed development fails to strike an appropriate balance between national infrastructure objectives and the protection of local communities, agricultural land, and the environment. Granting permission would set a negative precedent for the continued concentration of strategic infrastructure in this area without adequate regard to cumulative impacts or community capacity.

5. Grounds

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to request the Coimisiún to hold an oral hearing, please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

☐

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

☒

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes