

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Michelle Kelly
Lisheenkyle East
Athenry
Galway
H65 KX31

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, Castlambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

In addition to my objection to the original peaker plant proposals (case 324113), I also wish to register my objection to the separate application for the grid connection and roadworks, as it has a direct and significant impact on my family and daily life.

Having reviewed the application documentation, I have children attending Lisheenkyle National School, and the proposed extended road closures and construction activity on local routes, including the L7108, would seriously affect their safe access to school. These are already narrow rural roads, and the introduction of heavy construction vehicles and increased traffic presents a clear safety risk for school buses, parents, and children travelling daily.

My husband also relies on these roads for his daily commute, and the level of disruption outlined — including prolonged closures and diversions — would have a very significant impact on our ability to maintain normal working and family routines. The lack of clear diversion planning further adds to this concern.

In addition, we regularly provide support and access to an elderly family member, and any restriction or delay on local roads raises serious concerns regarding timely access, particularly in the event of emergencies. The road network in this area is limited, and any closures or congestion have immediate and real consequences for families like ours.

Overall, the scale of disruption proposed, combined with the introduction of large construction vehicles on tight rural roads not designed for this volume or type of traffic, creates unacceptable risks and impacts for our community.

In my view, this application cannot be considered in isolation, as it directly enables the operation of the peaker plant, and the combined impact of both developments significantly increases the overall burden on local residents. I'm outlining these points in more detail below.

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, Caherbriskaun, 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.

Prolonged Trenching, Road Closures and HGV Traffic

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the impact prolonged trenching works, excavation, road occupation, traffic management systems and heavy construction traffic would have on narrow rural roads and the communities that rely on them daily. The application documentation confirms significant road closures, stop/go traffic systems and substantial HGV movements during construction, which could result in serious disruption and ongoing inconvenience for local residents and road users.

Long-Term Road Reinstatement Concerns

I am also concerned regarding the long-term standard of road reinstatement following completion of the proposed works. Similar utility infrastructure works in nearby areas have resulted in uneven road surfaces, raised utility covers and poor reinstatement quality. Given the scale and duration of the proposed trenching works, I believe binding commitments should be provided regarding full road restoration, ongoing maintenance responsibility and reinstatement to an appropriate long-term standard for local communities.

Delays to Emergency Response and Defibrillator Access

The proposed works could cause significant delays and disruption for emergency vehicles, home-support services, school transport, agricultural traffic and daily commuters. I am also concerned about possible delays in accessing community defibrillators and emergency response assistance in rural areas where rapid access can be critical for medical emergencies.

Scale of Disruption and Infrastructure Pressure Underestimated

In my view, insufficient consideration has been given to the practical impact this development would have on local communities, rural roads, farms, traffic movement, groundwater conditions and the overall character of the surrounding area. Residents and road users would experience the development as a significant and prolonged infrastructure project rather than as isolated standalone works. I believe the scale of disruption and infrastructure pressure associated with the proposed development has been underestimated within the planning documentation.

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 'M. Kelly', written in a cursive style.

Name: Michelle Kelly

Date: 25 May 2026