

# OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

**Case Reference: 324162**

Patrick Quirke  
Castlelambert  
Athenry  
Galway

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902  
Date: 24 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, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

**Applicant:** Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

My family has deep roots in the area having lived and worked the land here for generations. I am gravely concerned about this development and the cumulative impact this will have on my own and my extended family's welfare. The proposed development and the associated road closures will impose a significant and unacceptable burden on my own and my extended family's daily life.

I reside in Castlelambert on the local road L3103 and my farmland is also located here. The proposed works, as currently outlined, will obstruct access to my residence and established access routes on the local road L3103 that I rely on for day-to-day farming activities, including movement of machinery, livestock, feed, and supplies. These routes have been in continuous use and form an essential part of the operational layout of my farm.

I have 6 grandchildren living locally who spend a significant amount of time at my home and attend the local primary school in Lisheenkyle which is also on the affected route (Lisheenkyle East Road (L7108)) and I am greatly troubled by both the short term disruption this development will cause to their daily routine and the long term impact it will have on their health and future in the area.

Our household relies on the affected routes for essential travel, including commuting to work, farming activities, routine activities such as shopping in Athenry, medical appointments in Athenry, childcare responsibilities and support provided to older neighbours. Any prolonged or repeated disruption to this road network will substantially increase journey times and place additional stress on our daily routines as well as an increased financial burden in the short term.

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

### **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 including my own grandchildren, older people and individuals with respiratory conditions.

### **Unsuitable Rural Location**

I believe the proposed substation and mast are not suitable for this rural location which I have lived in and farmed all my life. 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 Livestock Farming and Farm Access**

The proposed cable route passes through an active farming area including my own. I am concerned about the disruption that prolonged trenching works, road occupation and construction activity would cause to the normal operation of farms such as my own throughout the area, particularly along narrow rural roads heavily relied upon by the agricultural community. I have land on the route that will be directly impacted.

### **Students Travelling Daily Along Affected Roads**

Many students and school staff from surrounding rural areas travel daily along these local roads to schools in Athenry by bus, car, bicycle and on foot including my own grandchildren. The road network already experiences significant traffic volumes during school drop-off, collection and commuter periods, particularly within this expanding rural residential area characterised by substantial ribbon development. I am particularly concerned about the impact on my own grandchildren who attend the nearby national school that will be directly impacted by the road closures.

### **Emergency Services and Limited Alternative Routes**

I am concerned about the impact the proposed cable and construction works could have on emergency access and daily movement throughout the area. The affected rural roads are used daily by ambulances, emergency services, carers, school transport, farmers, local businesses and residents, and many of these roads have limited alternative access routes available.

For the reasons outlined above, I believe the proposed development would have significant adverse impacts on the local community, rural environment, farms, roads, and surrounding residential areas. In my view, the application has not adequately demonstrated that the proposed development can proceed without unacceptable impacts on rural amenity, traffic safety, environmental protection and community wellbeing. I do not believe the proposal represents proper planning and sustainable development, and I respectfully request that permission be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Quirke.