

**Janny Wieler,
Coomleagh West,
The Mealagh Valley,
Bantry,
Co. Cork
13/05/2026**

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

Re: Planning Ref ACP-324165-26 – Maughanaclea (Application Ref: 245503) Wind Farm

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this as someone who has lived quietly in the Mealagh Valley for over forty years. I am now 75 years of age, and this is the only home I have known since 1980.

When I first came here, it was the stillness that struck me. Not silence exactly, but a natural quiet — wind in the trees, birds during the day, and very little at night beyond what belongs here. Over time, that quiet became part of how I live. It suits me, especially as I have always had difficulty sleeping. I wake easily, and once awake, I can lie for hours. Living somewhere peaceful has helped me manage that.

Because of this, the proposed wind farm feels very close to home in a way that is hard to explain on paper. It is not an abstract concern. The idea of constant movement on the skyline, along with ongoing noise — even if described as “within limits” — is something I know would change my day-to-day life. The reports rely on averages, but real life is not experienced as an average. It is the irregular sounds, the hum at night, or the sense that the quiet has been replaced, that matter most.

I have read about situations elsewhere, including the Ballyduff case and the court decision at Gibbet Hill, where people were affected despite compliance with guidelines. That stays with me. It suggests that what is considered acceptable on paper does not always reflect how it feels to live with it.

Another matter that weighs heavily on me is my water supply. I depend on a private well. It is simple but reliable, and I have never had reason to question it. From what I can see in the application, there has been no full accounting of wells in the area and no baseline testing carried out. That leaves a gap. If something were to change — if the water became affected by construction or drainage — there would be no clear way of knowing when it happened or why. At this stage in my life, that kind of uncertainty is not easy to accept.

The land itself is also important to me. I am not speaking in technical terms, just from long familiarity. There is wildlife here that has been part of the place for as long as I have been here — birds, small animals, the general sense of a living landscape. I understand from the developer's own material that there will be permanent effects on peatland. Once ground like that is disturbed, it does not simply return to what it was. It is difficult to reconcile that with the idea that the project is entirely beneficial.

The nights here are something I value as well. There is a clarity to the sky that has become rare. I have read that turbine lighting can be visible over wide distances and can alter the character of the night entirely. That would be a significant change to something I have taken for granted for many years.

There is also the wider picture. This is not the only development of its kind in the area. When looked at together, the scale begins to add up. I do not feel that the combined effect on places like this valley — in terms of noise, visibility, and general atmosphere — has been fully captured.

I understand the need for renewable energy, and I am not against it. But I believe location matters, and so does the lived experience of the people already there. At 75, I am settled. This is where my life has unfolded. I would hope that counts for something.

I am aware that there are protections in Irish and European law regarding the enjoyment of one's home, including under the Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights. From where I stand, it is difficult to see how those protections are being upheld in this case.

For all of these reasons, I am asking that permission for this development be refused.

Yours faithfully

Janny Wieler