

Tushaline Sahseetharan

From: Amy Osullivan <amyosullivan1975@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:51 AM
To: SIDS
Subject: ACP-324165-26 — Response to Section 4.3.2 — Amy Carter-O'Sullivan
Attachments: my response.pdf

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Dear Commissioners,

In reply to the Commission's letter of 14 August 2026, please find attached my response to Section 4.3.2 (Nature Conservation) of the applicant's Response to Observations in case ACP-324165-26. This is submitted in my personal capacity; my objection of May 2026 stands in full.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Carter-O'Sullivan
Moonlands, Laharanshermeen, Bantry, Co. Cork, P75 P599

Amy Carter-O'Sullivan

Moonlands, Laharanshermeen, Bantry, Co. Cork, P75 P599

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902

Re: Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development — ACP-324165-26

Response to Section 4.3.2 (Nature Conservation) of the applicant's Response to Observations

Dear Commissioners,

I am replying to the Commission's letter of 14 August 2026, which invited observations on the applicant's Response to Observations, received by the Commission on 14 July 2026, and asked that they be confined to Section 4.3.2, Nature Conservation. I will stay within that. My objection of May 2026 stands exactly as I wrote it — including what I said there, plainly and deliberately, about noise — and this letter adds to it; it takes nothing away.

In May I told the Commission about a year in the Meallagh Valley, because a year is how this place is truly measured. The hare crossing the frosty fields in early spring. The skylarks and the cuckoos arriving in May. The dragonflies over the pond and the bees heavy in the hedgerows through summer. The robin that stays for winter. And threaded through all of it, the nights — the stars over the valley at the new moon, a depth of dark sky that most people in this country no longer have anywhere near them. I said then that I would not give the Commission figures, and I meant it. I have now read Section 4.3.2, and I find I must break that rule twice, because two of the applicant's own facts, set side by side, say more than any argument I could compose.

The first fact is on page 34 of the applicant's Response, where it confirms it is agreeable to the Department of Defence condition: fixed red obstacle lighting of at least 2,000 candela on every one of the fourteen turbines, visible in all directions, operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, permanently. The consented Dreenacreenig West scheme on the far ridge of the valley carries the same lighting on its three turbines. The second fact is this: every bird survey on which Section 4.3.2 rests was carried out in daylight. There is not one hour of night-time observation anywhere in this application.

Set those together and the shape of the thing is clear. The applicant has agreed to keep the night of this valley lit, red, from both ridgelines, for the operational life of the development — and it has never once looked at that night. The year I described to the Commission has three hundred and sixty-five nights in it. The valley is not switched off

after dark; it is simply working a different shift. The bats over the garden on a summer evening, the owls we hear from the conservatory, the birds that pass over this valley in the dark on their way to somewhere else — none of them exists anywhere in Section 4.3.2, because nobody was ever sent to look. NatureScot's information note on aviation obstruction lighting and birds names the danger with this kind of lighting precisely — phototaxis, the drawing of birds toward artificial light — and identifies it as the principal concern. The applicant does not cite the note. It does not so much as raise the question. A document that answers the community's concerns about nature conservation without one night of data, in a valley about to be lit all night forever, has not answered anything. It has written about a place with no nights in its year, and that place is not the Meallagh Valley.

Nor is the daylight half of the assessment any more reassuring about the living things I described. The submission of the Development Applications Unit on this case (SID-CK-2026-011, 25 May 2026) warned that the applicant reasons its way from "no individual significance" to "no cumulative significance" in a manner that misses the point of cumulative effects entirely, and that displacement — the quiet emptying of ground near turbines, without a single collision — is often never calculated at all. The hare does not need to be struck by a blade to vanish from the frosty field I watch in spring. It needs only for the field to stop being the kind of place a hare will use. That is the loss no table in Section 4.3.2 has measured, on a site where two developments would work on this valley's wildlife from both sides at once.

I will finish the way I finished in May, because my position has not moved and will not. I am not asking the Commission to send the applicant back out to count what it failed to count. The missing nights and the unmeasured displacement are not homework to be completed; they are the proof of how lightly this applicant has held the living valley it proposes to industrialise — and no survey, however late or thorough, would make these turbines belong on that ridge. The wheel of the year I described turns through this valley whole: its dawns beside the Maughanaclea ridgeline, its seasons, and its dark, star-heavy nights. I am asking An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development, and to let the Meallagh Valley keep its peace, keep its beauty, keep its seasons — and keep its nights.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Carter-O'Sullivan

Moonlands, Laharanshermeen, Bantry, Co. Cork, P75 P599