



Outlook

Reference ACP-324165-26

From bartm.collins <bartm.collins@btinternet.com>

Date Mon 9/14/2026 1:25 PM

To SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>

 1 attachment (208 KB)

Response to MKO RtO MC .pdf;

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Dear Sir/Madam

I have attached my response to the RtO relating to the above referenced case.

Yours sincerely

Martin Collins

The Honeypot
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SID Planning
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

12th September 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Developer: Maughanaclea Ltd / Enerco: SID Application Submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Ref No: ACP-324165-26 **Description of Development:** 10-year planning permission for Maughanaclea Wind Farm consisting of 14 no. wind turbines, a 110kV substation and 110kV underground cabling connection and associated work.

Location: Maughanaclea, in townlands of Ardrah, Maughanaclea, Ballynamought, Gortloughra, Cousane,

I am responding to the letter received of August 14th 2026 from Honor Caird Marren. My response is confined to Section 4.3.2 (Nature Conservation) of the RtO.

Having read the RtO from MKO, I recognise and support the many concerns raised in submissions from the Local Authority, Cork County Council, Statutory Consultees and third-party observers, while in response, the applicant broadly reiterates much of the detail already in the public domain from the original EIAR with a few exceptions.

I must respectfully draw your attention to the fact that the applicant's RtO included the proposed wind farm development at Dreenacreenig West on the edge of the Mealagh valley in its cumulative bird assessments, but in the original EIAR this windfarm development is missing from the cumulative assessments for noise, landscape and visual impact. I would ask why the applicant has chosen not to use a consistent set of neighbouring developments across all of its analysis.

In their response addressing bird impacts, the applicant has mostly used collision risk modelling while dismissing the effects of displacement on bird populations in an area with 28 wind farms within 25km of the site, 8 of which are within 10km. As windfarm developments in West Cork increase in number, **displacement** is becoming a key issue in bird species conservation in the wider local landscape than simply around the immediate location of individual turbines, and I must say that I do not feel that this issue has been addressed adequately by the applicant's RtO in response to DAU concerns as laid out in DAU ref. SID-CK-2026-011.

The cumulative effects in this area have not been measured or mitigated for: *While disturbance displacement, habitat loss and barrier effects are considered nonlethal impacts on birds, these effects are likely to work at a population level as opposed to an individual level. Birds may be displaced from a wind farm into areas of less suitable foraging or breeding areas, which may negatively affect survival and reproductive output (Langston & Pullan, 2003; Madders & Whitfield, 2006).*

Birdwatch Ireland made the following statement in 2015 regarding the decline of bird species in Ireland: *The status of many of Ireland's protected habitats is poor (NPWS 2013; EPA, 2012) and due to a variety of factors many birds of conservation concern in Ireland are showing further declines in range and population (Colhoun & Cummins 2013). According to the EPA, there remains a "significant challenge for Ireland in striving to meet its obligations under the EU Habitats Directive and the EU policy*

objective of halting the loss of biodiversity" (EPA 2012). Furthermore, Ireland also has a poor record in relation to environmental protection (as highlighted by the European Court of Justice by ECJ c.418-04 and other cases), particularly for ensuring that ecological impacts and biodiversity policy obligations are fully addressed across all sectors. Mc Guinness, S., Muldoon, C. et al, 2015 Bird Sensitivity Mapping for Wind Energy Developments and Associated Infrastructure in the Republic of Ireland

I am therefore concerned that the cumulative impact of disturbance displacement, collision risk and the disturbance of habitat has not been fully addressed, and ask ACP to take this into consideration when reaching a decision, which I strongly believe should be refusal of permission.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Collins