

## Almost 80,000 people have undiagnosed coeliac disease

EILISH O'REGAN

Around 78,000 people in Ireland have coeliac disease but are undiagnosed, it has emerged.

Coeliac disease is a condition where the immune system attacks tissues when foods with gluten are consumed, damaging the gut so the body cannot properly take in nutrients.

While there is no cure, coeliac disease can be treated by following a strict gluten-free diet. Left untreated, the disease can lead

to severe complications such as malnutrition, osteoporosis, infertility and an increased risk of certain types of cancer.

The Coeliac Society of Ireland said it can present in many different ways and be mistaken for other conditions.

It is encouraging people who are experiencing symptoms to consider whether the condition has been properly ruled out, with diagnosis beginning from a simple blood test while still consuming gluten.

Symptoms can range from digestive issues to less obvious signs such as chronic fatigue, persistent mouth ulcers, brain fog and nutrient deficiencies.

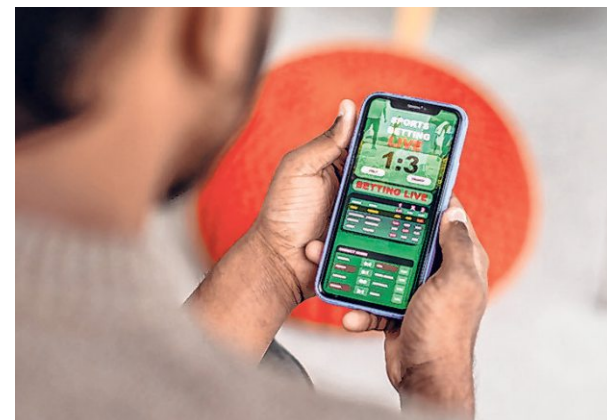
It affects around 1.7pc of the population and despite its prevalence, it is often overlooked and misunderstood, with a quarter of people living with the disease previously misdiagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome.

"Many people across Ireland live with symptoms they may not realise could be linked to coeliac

disease," dietitian Sarah Keogh said.

"Because it can present in different ways, from fatigue and low nutrient levels to digestive issues, it's often overlooked or mistaken for other conditions.

"Those with a close family member, a parent, sibling or child, should be particularly mindful, as their risk increases to one in 10. If symptoms persist, people should feel empowered to visit their GP and ask if they have ruled out coeliac disease."



New gambling legislation has been introduced. Photo: Getty

### LEGAL NOTICES

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#### Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in Respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development in County Mayo

In accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, we, Constant Energy Limited, give notice of our intention to make an application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for permission for a period of 10 years, for development comprising the construction and operation of a wind farm and related works in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower, Barnhill Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelackan Demesne, Castletown, Conaghra, Glebe, Lackanhill, Lecarrowntemple, Lissadrone East and Lissadrone West, Co. Mayo. The Grid Connection Route will commence in the townlands of Barroe and will continue onto the townlands of Carrad More, Tawnaghmore Upper, Rathbaun, Carrickanass, Cloonavarry, Doonamona, Rathcash, Castlereagh, Rathowen West, Rathowen East, Magherabrack, Cloonawillin, Killala, Mullafarry, Lisglennon, Tawnaghmore Lower, Ballinteean and Carrowreagh Co Mayo.

The development is covered by the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III (Directive 2023/2413). The planning application is subject to section 37JA of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. When a notice issues in accordance with section 37JA(b), the provisions of article 216A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2025 shall apply.

The proposed development will consist of the following:

- Erection of 16 wind turbines; The candidate wind turbines have a rotor diameter of 117m, a hub height of 76.5m and a tip height of 135m. No flexibility in terms of turbines dimensions is sought as part of the application for Planning Permission.
- Installation of battery arrays located within container units and associated electrical plant for grid stabilisation adjacent to the Onsite Substation building with surrounding palisade fence 2.65m in height.
- Construction of permanent turbine hardstands and turbine foundations.
- Change of use of a vacant residential dwelling to a permanent operations compound consisting of an operations office, storage area and staff parking, upgrade existing site utilities and replace existing septic tank with a wastewater treatment system.
- Construction of two temporary construction compounds with associated temporary site offices, parking areas and security fencing.
- Installation of one (35-year life cycle) meteorological mast with a height of 80m and a 4m lightning pole on top.
- Development of on-site spoil deposition areas.
- Development of an internal site drainage network and sediment control systems.
- Construction of 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation including 1 no. control building with welfare facilities, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing and gates, all associated underground cabling, wastewater holding tank, and all ancillary structures and works.
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the wind farm substation and battery arrays.
- Ancillary forestry felling to facilitate construction of the development.
- All works associated with the permanent connection of the wind farm to the national electricity grid comprising a 110 kV underground cable in permanent cable ducts from the proposed permanent on-site substation, commencing in the townland of Barroe and continuing onto the townlands of Carn, Rathbaun, Doonamona, Castlereagh, Rathcash, Rathowen East, Rathowen West, Killala, Magherabrack, Farragh, Cloonawillin, Mullafarry, Lisglennon and Tawnaghmore Upper to the existing Tawnaghmore 110 kV Substation in the townland of Tawnaghmore Upper.
- All associated site development works including berms, landscaping, and soil excavation.
- Construction of new permanent internal site access tracks and all associated drainage infrastructure.
- Improvement of nine existing entrances off local roads, one off L-5173, one off L-5179, two off the local road L-5187-47, two off the local L-5187-22 and three off the L-21147-0, all to include localised widening of the road and creation of a splayed entrance to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads and turbine component deliveries.
- Construction of five new site entrances off local roads, one off the L-31143, one off the L-51791-23, one off the L-31142-0, two off the L-31142-0, and one off the L-5179-22, all to include localised widening of the road and creation of a splayed entrance to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads and turbine component deliveries.
- Upgrade works on the turbine delivery route to include the following:
  - o Localised widening along the L-5187-47, L-31142-0, L5187-22-0, L-5187-47, L21147-0, and roads to a width of 4.5m and the widening of junctions at the crossroads R314 and L-51731 crossroads in the townland of Billoos.

This application is seeking a ten-year permission and a 35-year operational period from the date of overall commissioning of the entire wind farm.

This application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The planning application, EIAR and NIS may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on 7th May 2026 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902.
- The Offices of Mayo County Council, Aras an Chontae, The Mall, Castlebar, County Mayo F23WF90.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: [www.tirawleywindfarm.com](http://www.tirawleywindfarm.com)

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála ("the Commission") 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 in writing or online on the Commission's website [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie) during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to: (i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned; (ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out, and (iii) the likely effects of the Proposed Development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Commission between 7th May and not later than 5.30 p.m. on 25th June 2026. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information: (i) the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent; (ii) the subject matter of the submission or observation, and (iii) the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Commission.

The Commission may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details please see 'A Guide to Public participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' on the Commission's website [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)).

The Commission may in respect of an application for permission decide to: (a) (i) grant the permission, or (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or (iii) grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or (b) refuse to grant the permission.

A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Commission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading "Information on cases / Weekly lists" – Judicial Review of planning decisions, on the Commission's website [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie) or on the Citizens Information Service website [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie). Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100).

## Betting firms 'reach young men at double rate of women'

EILISH O'REGAN

Gambling companies are reaching young men in Ireland – the group most likely to suffer problem gambling behaviour – on social media at more than double the rate they are reaching women, a study has found.

The group is faced with a "dizzying" number of advertisements for gambling on social media, according to researchers from the University of Cambridge and Munster Technological University, Cork.

The researchers looked at 411 advertisements from 88 gambling operators in Ireland, and found young men were reached 2.3 times more than women across Meta platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram, even if they did not directly target them.

The age group most exposed to gambling advertising was 25 to 34-year-olds, who accounted for over a third of all unique accounts reached, a total of more than 6.2 million impressions, according to the study in the *Journal of Behavioural Addictions*.

The researchers used the Meta Ad Library to conduct the study. Under the EU Digital Services Act, Meta and other online service providers must publish all advertising shown on their platforms in EU countries and provide demographic data about who saw them.

"Even in a country like Ireland with a small population, the number of accounts these ads reached was dizzying," Dr Elena Petrovskaya, from Cambridge's Department of Computer Science and Technology, said.

The findings were published as new gambling legislation came into effect in Ireland, banning most social media gambling advertising unless users actively opt in to see it.

Commenting on the findings Professor Colin O'Gara, of the School of Medicine at University College Dublin and head of addiction services at St John of God Hospital, said: "In my view, we have a real problem with the proliferation and normalisation

of gambling among young men, driven in large part by advertising. Over the past two decades, this has been dominated by largely one-sided, heavily promoted, celebrity-endorsed campaigns.

"We have to take gambling advertising incredibly seriously. For those who already have a gambling problem, it disproportionately affects them and can trigger relapse.

"For those who are vulnerable, it can drive initiation. It is a key engine of harm, and if we are serious about tackling gambling harm, advertising has to be at the top of the agenda.

"The difficulty is that the online space is particularly hard to regulate. That's why defining it and gathering meaningful data is so important. This study is welcome in that regard: it uses a novel, compelling method to access advertising data and understand its reach.

"We argued many years ago – back in 2019 in the Irish College of Psychiatrists' position paper – that there should be an outright ban on gambling advertising, rather than relying on a watershed that bans it on TV and radio before 9pm.

"The reality is that not all children are going to bed by then, and most children in Ireland have smartphones from around the age of 12 and are being exposed to these ads online.

"With the current legislation, a new commission has been established, the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland [GRAI]. The question is whether it is set up to handle this kind of challenge, and whether the legislation underpinning it goes far enough.

"In the past, I have commented that this is a huge task, particularly when you consider regulation of the online space.

"The GRAI will have responsibility across the board, including online, and this highlights the need for significant resourcing. It will require substantial support in terms of technical expertise and investment."