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County Mayo
F26 PR60
25th June 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Objection to the Proposed Tirawley Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure

Development Objection Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Planning permission for the construction of Tirawley Windfarm consisting of 16 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, 110kV underground cable and grid connection, and ancillary development in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower & Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a resident of the area within proximity to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project, submitted by Constant Energy Limited, to formally lodge my objection to this Strategic Infrastructure Development application. This development poses significant and irreversible risks to the local environment, biodiversity and local residents. In particular the proposal threatens critical habitats for protected species such as the Hen Harrier, involves substantial habitat removal including over 4 km of hedgerow, and raises serious concerns regarding visual impact, traffic disruption, and inadequate community consultation. These issues, coupled with shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, justify a refusal of permission for this project.

Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Planning Reference: PAX16.324258

Objection to the Proposed Tirawley Wind Farm Development

I wish to lodge my strongest objection to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development. I respectfully submit that the proposed development does not represent proper planning or sustainable development having regard to its proximity to my family home and farm, the cumulative concentration of turbines surrounding my property, the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), the inadequacy of the environmental assessment, the risks posed

to agricultural land and food production, the impact on local infrastructure, and the failure of the applicant to meaningfully engage with those most directly affected.

My home and agricultural holding are situated in exceptionally close proximity to one of the most concentrated clusters of turbines proposed anywhere within the development. Turbines AT01, AT05, AT06, AT07 and AT08 are all located within approximately 1.5 kilometres of my property, while the proposed Battery Energy Storage System is also located nearby. Although each individual element of the proposal is considered throughout different sections of the application documentation, there has been no meaningful assessment of the cumulative effect that this concentration of major industrial infrastructure will have on those of us who live and work in this immediate area every day.

It is not sufficient to assess each turbine in isolation. The reality for my family is that we will experience the combined impact of five large wind turbines operating simultaneously together with the continuous operation of the Battery Energy Storage System. This includes the cumulative visual impact, cumulative noise, cumulative shadow flicker, cumulative lighting, cumulative construction impacts, cumulative traffic movements and the overall industrialisation of the landscape surrounding our home and farm. In my opinion the Environmental Impact Assessment Report fails to properly evaluate these combined effects from the perspective of those living within this cluster of infrastructure. The Board must assess the real-world cumulative impact of all components operating together rather than considering each individual element separately.

I am particularly concerned by the treatment of the Battery Energy Storage System within the planning application. The BESS is a substantial industrial development in its own right, yet there is no dedicated chapter within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report dealing comprehensively with its environmental impacts. Instead, references to the BESS are dispersed throughout various chapters without any standalone assessment of the significant issues associated with this type of development.

Given the scale of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System and the significant environmental, safety and operational issues associated with large-scale lithium battery installations, I respectfully submit that it is incumbent upon An Coimisiún Pleanála to carefully consider whether the environmental assessment undertaken is legally adequate. The Board should determine whether a separate Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the Battery Energy Storage System or, alternatively, whether the existing Environmental Impact Assessment Report contains sufficient detail to allow a lawful assessment of this substantial element of the proposed development. Without a comprehensive standalone assessment of the BESS, it is difficult to understand how the Board can fully evaluate its environmental effects either individually or in combination with the remainder of the development.

As a dairy farmer I also have significant concerns regarding the complete absence of any meaningful assessment of the interaction between the proposed Battery Energy Storage System and the surrounding agricultural land. My livelihood depends entirely upon maintaining healthy grazing land and producing safe, high-quality food. The planning documentation contains no detailed assessment of the potential consequences should contaminants from battery modules, cooling systems or fire suppression activities enter adjoining farmland, drainage systems or groundwater.

While the application places considerable emphasis on the low probability of major incidents, the consequences of such an event could be extremely serious for neighbouring farms. Modern battery systems contain hazardous chemicals and other potentially toxic materials. In the event of fire, structural failure or accidental release, contamination of agricultural land could have significant implications for livestock, milk production, soil quality and ultimately the human food chain. These are matters which directly engage the protection of public health and food safety. It is not sufficient to assume that because an incident is considered unlikely it need not be comprehensively assessed. The Board has a duty to ensure that all reasonably foreseeable risks have been properly examined before granting permission.

The planning documentation similarly fails to assess the long-term implications for farmers whose land surrounds the Battery Energy Storage System. There is no detailed consideration of how neighbouring agricultural operations may be affected during construction, operation or in the unlikely event of an emergency. This omission is particularly concerning given that agriculture remains the principal land use in this area and many local families depend entirely upon farming for their income.

The impact on the local road network is another matter of serious concern. The roads serving this area were never designed to accommodate the scale and duration of heavy construction traffic required for a project of this magnitude. These roads are used daily by local residents, school transport, emergency services and agricultural traffic, including large farm machinery. Significant deterioration of the road network, disruption to farming activities and restrictions on access are inevitable consequences of the proposed development. The long-term impact on those of us who rely upon these roads every day has not been adequately recognised.

Equally concerning is the complete absence of meaningful engagement by the applicant. Despite being one of the residents and landowners most directly affected by the proposed development, I was never contacted by the applicant prior to the submission of this application. No representative visited my home to discuss the proposal or to understand how it would affect my family and farming business. This failure reflects a wider pattern of inadequate community engagement experienced throughout the parish. Meaningful consultation requires direct engagement with those who stand to be most affected, not simply the publication of notices or the holding of limited public information events after key decisions have effectively already been made.

The proposed development must also be considered in the context of the wider community. It is evident from the large number of objections submitted, the extensive public meetings held throughout the planning process and the significant level of local concern that this proposal does not enjoy community support. Rather than bringing benefit, the development has caused deep division and uncertainty within the parish. The Board should give considerable weight to the views of those who live, work and raise families within this landscape and who will continue to experience the consequences of this development for decades should permission be granted.

Finally, I respectfully submit that this application raises significant concerns regarding the protection of human health. The planning system exists not only to facilitate development but also to protect those who live in the vicinity of that development. Where legitimate questions remain regarding cumulative environmental impacts, the adequacy of environmental assessment, food safety, agricultural impacts and the Battery Energy Storage System, the

precautionary principle should apply. It is incumbent upon An Coimisiún Pleanála to be satisfied beyond doubt that the development will not adversely affect the health, safety and wellbeing of neighbouring residents or compromise the viability of surrounding agricultural enterprises.

I wish to adopt and support the detailed submission made by the Lacken Ballycastle Community Landscape Protection Group in relation to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development (PAX16.324258). In particular, I endorse the concerns raised regarding cumulative wind farm development across North Mayo, impacts on the Céide Fields cultural landscape, effects on tourism and recreation, biodiversity impacts, inadequacies in community consultation, and the assessment of the Battery Energy Storage System. While I do not repeat those detailed arguments in full, I request that they be considered as forming part of this submission.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses planning permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm. The cumulative concentration of turbines surrounding my home, the proximity of the Battery Energy Storage System, the inadequacy of the environmental assessment, the absence of a comprehensive assessment of the BESS, the risks posed to agriculture and food production, the impacts on local infrastructure and the failure to properly engage with those most directly affected collectively demonstrate that this proposal has not been shown to constitute proper planning and sustainable development. Until these significant deficiencies have been fully addressed, planning permission should not be granted.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,
Brendan McDonnell