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24th 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 to formally object to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development. While I recognise the importance of renewable energy and the role it plays in meeting national climate and energy objectives, I do not believe that this development is appropriate for this location. The proposal raises serious concerns regarding residential amenity, human health, water supplies, landscape impact, tourism, traffic disruption and the cumulative effects of multiple wind energy developments in North Mayo. The proposed development would have a significant and lasting impact on my household and the wider local community.

Health, Residential Amenity, Noise and Shadow Flicker Concerns

My home is identified as **Receptor H17** within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). My dwelling is located approximately **646 metres from proposed Turbine AT02**, as stated in Table 15.1 of the EIAR.

I am deeply concerned about the impact that this development may have on my household. My husband suffers from **dementia**, and I personally suffer from **migraine**. These are

significant health concerns that I believe have not been adequately considered within the EIAR when assessing the likely impact of the proposed development on nearby residents.

My husband's dementia makes him particularly vulnerable to environmental disturbance, changes to routine, stress and sleep disruption. Maintaining a calm and stable home environment is extremely important to his wellbeing and quality of life.

As a migraine sufferer, I am particularly sensitive to factors such as sleep disturbance, repetitive noise, stress and visual disturbances. These factors are recognised triggers for migraine attacks and can significantly affect my health, wellbeing and ability to carry out normal daily activities.

I am concerned that the EIAR assessment does not adequately address the real-world residential impact of having multiple large-scale wind turbines located within close proximity to my home. While the assessment relies on technical modelling and compliance with guidelines, these assessments do not necessarily reflect the lived experience of people who must reside beside the development for its entire operational lifetime.

Noise Impact Concerns

The proposed Turbine AT02 is located only approximately **646 metres from my dwelling (H17)**. I consider this separation distance insufficient to adequately protect residential amenity, particularly given the size of modern turbines and the quiet rural environment in which my home is situated.

The noise assessment appears to rely heavily on predictive modelling rather than actual operational experience. I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála carefully examine whether the modelling fully represents the conditions likely to be experienced at H17, including:

- Night-time noise impacts when natural background noise levels are lowest;
- Periods where wind direction results in noise from multiple turbines being experienced simultaneously;
- Amplitude modulation effects, commonly known as “blade swish”, which can make turbine noise more intrusive and noticeable;
- Potential low-frequency noise impacts;
- The cumulative noise contribution from several turbines operating together.

Predicted compliance with numerical noise limits does not necessarily mean there will be no significant loss of residential amenity. My home is located within a quiet rural area where existing background noise levels are generally low. The introduction of continuous operational turbine noise has the potential to fundamentally alter the existing soundscape and adversely affect the enjoyment of my home, garden and property.

This issue is particularly important when considered in the context of our health circumstances. Sleep disturbance and prolonged exposure to unwanted noise may negatively affect my husband's wellbeing and may exacerbate my migraine condition. The potential

cumulative impacts of noise over the lifetime of the development should not be underestimated.

I respectfully submit that a more precautionary approach should be applied to Receptor H17 given its close proximity to Turbine AT02 and the combined influence of nearby turbines.

Shadow Flicker Concerns

I also have serious concerns regarding the assessment of shadow flicker impacts.

The EIAR identifies my dwelling, H17, as being located approximately **646 metres from Turbine AT02**. However, I am **unable to identify** how the assessment concludes that AT02 will have no shadow flicker impact on my house.

Given the distance involved, I do not believe it is reasonable to suggest that there will be zero effect. In my view, this raises concerns regarding the accuracy of the modelling and the overall robustness of the applicant's assessment.

The issue of shadow flicker is particularly important in my circumstances. The rotating blades of a wind turbine can create a repetitive flickering effect when sunlight passes through them. Such visual disturbances have the potential to negatively affect residential amenity and may be particularly problematic for individuals who suffer from migraine conditions.

As a migraine sufferer, I am concerned that any shadow flicker experienced at my property could increase the frequency and severity of migraine attacks and reduce my quality of life. This is a health issue that I do not believe has been properly considered in the application.

While the EIAR refers to mitigation measures, including shadow flicker control systems and turbine management measures, I do not believe that reliance on future mitigation is sufficient justification for permitting a development that may create impacts at nearby homes.

The proposed mitigation measures raise a number of concerns:

- The long-term reliability of any shadow flicker control system;
- Monitoring and enforcement arrangements throughout the lifetime of the development;
- Responsibility in circumstances where mitigation measures fail;
- Whether turbine shutdown would occur automatically or only after complaints are received;
- How compliance at H17 would be independently verified.

The fact that mitigation measures are proposed demonstrates that the applicant acknowledges the potential for shadow flicker impacts to occur.

Concerns Regarding Private Water Supply

My household relies on an **active private well located on our property**, which provides the water that we use every day for drinking, cooking, washing and all other domestic purposes. **We have no other source of water supply available to us.**

I am concerned that the extensive excavation works, road construction, turbine foundations, cable installation and associated ground disturbance proposed as part of this development could have an adverse effect on groundwater flows and water quality. Any contamination, disruption or reduction in the supply from our well would have serious consequences for our household.

I am not satisfied that sufficient certainty has been provided that private water supplies such as ours will be fully protected throughout both the construction and operational phases of the project. Once a private well is affected, the consequences for homeowners can be significant and long-lasting.

Given our reliance on this water source for daily consumption, I believe the potential risks to private groundwater supplies require far greater consideration than has been demonstrated in the application.

Future Family Development and Sterilisation of Family Lands

I am also concerned about the long-term impact that the proposed wind farm will have on the future development potential of my family lands and the opportunities available to future generations of my family.

Like many families in rural Ireland, it has always been my hope that my children and grandchildren would have the opportunity, if they wished, to live close to their family home and remain part of the local community. The ability to build a home on family land is often an important factor in sustaining rural communities and allowing future generations to continue living and working in the area.

The proposed development has the potential to significantly restrict these opportunities. The presence of large-scale wind turbines in close proximity to existing family lands may sterilise lands that could otherwise be considered suitable for future residential development. Future planning applications for family homes may be affected by separation distances, noise constraints, shadow flicker considerations, visual amenity concerns or other restrictions arising from the wind farm development.

This raises a serious concern regarding the long-term rights of local landowners and families who are not participating in the wind farm project. While the operational life of the wind farm may extend for decades, the planning consequences for neighbouring lands may continue long after the development is constructed. Decisions made today could therefore limit the options available to my children and grandchildren for generations to come.

Landscape and Visual Impact

The proposed turbines would introduce a significant industrial development into a sensitive rural and coastal landscape. Due to their height and scale, the turbines would be visible across a wide area and would permanently alter the character of the local landscape.

The scenic quality of this area is one of its greatest assets for both residents and visitors. The proposed development would result in a substantial visual intrusion on the landscape and would diminish the rural character that defines this part of County Mayo. I do not believe the visual impacts are acceptable given the sensitivity of the receiving environment.

Traffic and Infrastructure Concerns

The construction phase of the project will require a significant volume of heavy goods vehicles, abnormal loads and construction traffic. This will inevitably place pressure on local roads and infrastructure.

I am concerned about the impact that these works will have on local residents, including delays, road closures, safety concerns and disruption to daily life. Access to work, medical appointments and essential services may be affected as a result of the extensive road works required for turbine deliveries and associated construction activities.

I remain particularly concerned about the adequacy of assessments carried out in relation to Palmerstown Bridge and whether the structure can safely accommodate the scale of traffic proposed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I respectfully submit that the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm is not an appropriate development for this location due to its potential impacts on residential amenity, health and wellbeing, landscape character, tourism, local infrastructure and the wider community.

My home, identified as **Receptor H17**, is located approximately **646 metres from Turbine AT02**, and I remain concerned about the impacts of turbine noise, shadow flicker, visual intrusion and construction-related disruption on my household. I do not believe the EIAR adequately reflects the real-life impact of living in close proximity to multiple large-scale wind turbines.

My husband suffers from **dementia** and I suffer from **migraines**, making us particularly vulnerable to sleep disturbance, noise and visual effects such as shadow flicker. In addition, our household relies on an **active private well** for drinking water and domestic use, and I remain concerned about potential impacts on groundwater and water quality arising from construction activities.

I am also concerned that the proposed development could restrict the future development potential of my family lands, limiting opportunities for my children and grandchildren to build homes and remain within the local community.

For these reasons, and having regard to the concerns outlined throughout this submission, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm in the interests of proper planning, sustainable development and the protection of local residents and rural communities.

Yours faithfully,

Kathleen Donoghue