

To: The Secretary, An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

RE: Planning Observation under Section 37JA of the Planning and Development Act

Case Reference: PAX16.324258 (Tirawley/Lacken Wind Farm)

Development Proposed: 16 No. Wind Turbines (135m tip height), 110 kV Substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and associated grid connection to the Asahi Substation located within the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower, Barnhill Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelackan Demesne, Castletown and others Co. Mayo

Observer: Laurence Howard

Address: Wardley, Monterey Road, Greystones, Co Wicklow & Muingmore, Belmullet, Ballina, Co. Mayo

Dear Secretary,

I wish to lodge a formal planning observation in relation to the above-referenced Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application. As a native of North West Mayo, I am deeply invested in the sustainable management of the local environment.

While I fully support Ireland's transition to renewable energy in line with national climate targets, such developments must be balanced against the preservation of ecologically sensitive landscapes, cultural heritage assets, and the residential amenity of rural communities.

I contend that the proposed development of 16 industrial-scale wind turbines across the coastal townlands of Lacken and Tirawley represents an overdevelopment of a highly vulnerable landscape. The scale and positioning of this infrastructure fail to comply with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It fundamentally conflicts with the protective policies enshrined in the Mayo County Development Plan 2022–2028, as well as the active zoning modernisations currently being finalised under Draft Variation No. 2 (Renewable Energy Strategy 2026).

Accordingly, I request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses planning permission for this project based on the material planning grounds detailed below.

The proposed Tirawley/Lacken Wind Farm cannot be considered proper planning or sustainable development. The applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) contain significant deficiencies, notably underestimating the hydrogeological threat to the adjacent Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head SAC, as well as the long-term cumulative socio-economic impact on the Wild Atlantic Way eco-tourism corridor.

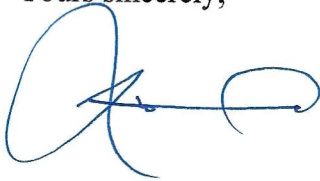
Furthermore, seeking a 10-year planning permission and a 35-year operational lifecycle based on an obsolete 2011 Renewable Energy Strategy baseline is highly regressive. It directly bypasses the democratic process and rigorous environmental standards currently being established under Mayo County Council's active Draft Variation No. 2 (2026) framework.

To permit 16 towering 135m structures, a heavy-industrial 110 kV substation, and an extensive battery storage array in this iconic coastal and heritage landscape would cause irreversible environmental and visual degradation. The Board has a statutory duty to safeguard our internationally recognized cultural landscapes and protected European sites from speculative, inappropriately scaled industrialization.

The 16 structures are planned to encircle at least one home on three sides who will inevitably be subjected to shadow-flicker, noise levels above those recognised within tolerance and a destruction of the adjacent dwellings and land value.

For the reasons outlined in this submission, I respectfully but firmly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to uphold the principles of robust environmental stewardship and **refuse permission** for Case Reference PAX16.324258

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Laurence Howard', with a stylized, flowing script.

Laurence Howard

Date: June 15, 2026