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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.

My objection is based primarily on the significant adverse impact that this project would have on the tourism value, scenic character, cultural heritage, and landscape identity of the North Mayo area. This region is internationally recognised for its outstanding natural landscapes, proximity to the Wild Atlantic Way, dramatic coastal scenery, and rich archaeological and cultural heritage. These qualities are fundamental to the area's tourism economy and contribute significantly to the identity and wellbeing of local communities.

1. IMPACT ON TOURISM AND LOCAL AMENITY

The proposed wind farm would introduce large-scale industrial infrastructure into a landscape that attracts visitors seeking unspoilt scenery, tranquillity, and a strong connection to Mayo's natural and cultural heritage.

The North Mayo coast forms an important part of the Wild Atlantic Way, one of Ireland's premier tourism initiatives. The success of this tourism offering depends upon the preservation of scenic landscapes, cultural authenticity and environmental quality. The introduction of industrial-scale

infrastructure into this setting risks undermining the qualities that attract visitors to the region and support local businesses, accommodation providers, restaurants, community enterprises and tourism attractions.

While the application documents suggest tourism impacts will be limited, I believe that the cumulative industrialisation of the landscape has the potential to diminish the visitor experience and undermine the area's reputation as a scenic and heritage destination. The economic value of tourism is long-term and sustainable, relying directly on the protection of the environmental and cultural assets that make the region unique.

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), planning authorities are required to have regard to landscape character, visual amenity, heritage and sustainable development. I respectfully submit that these considerations weigh heavily against the proposed development.

2. HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

I have a strong personal connection to this area through my father's family, who originated from this locality. This family connection has given me a deep appreciation of the history, traditions, landscape and cultural identity of North Mayo.

The landscape represents far more than a physical environment. It forms part of the living heritage and legacy of families who have lived and worked in this area for generations. Significant changes to the character of the landscape risk eroding the historical setting and sense of place which form an important part of the area's identity.

Ireland is a signatory to the European Landscape Convention, which recognises landscapes as an essential component of cultural heritage and requires decision-makers to recognise their cultural, ecological, environmental and social value. The Convention acknowledges that landscapes contribute significantly to individual and collective wellbeing and should be protected and managed appropriately.

North Mayo contains some of Ireland's most important heritage landscapes, including the Céide Fields archaeological complex and the wider historic landscape in which these nationally significant sites are experienced. Incremental industrialisation through multiple wind farm developments threatens the integrity, authenticity and character of these heritage landscapes.

Future generations should be able to experience and appreciate the same landscape and cultural heritage that previous generations have valued and preserved.

3. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND VISUAL IMPACT

The scale of the proposed turbines would result in a substantial industrial presence across a wide geographical area. Given the elevated nature of the site and its proximity to important scenic routes, tourism destinations and coastal viewpoints, the visual effects are likely to be extensive and long-lasting.

I am particularly concerned that the cumulative impact of existing, permitted and proposed wind energy developments may lead to a gradual but irreversible loss of the rural and scenic character that makes North Mayo unique.

Mayo County Council has previously expressed concerns regarding the suitability of large-scale wind energy developments within visually sensitive landscapes. The North Mayo coastline is recognised for its scenic quality and forms a defining part of the character of the region. The construction of multiple large wind farm developments across this landscape risks fundamentally altering its appearance and eroding its intrinsic value.

4. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

My strongest concern relates to the cumulative impact of the Tirawley Wind Farm when considered alongside other operational, approved and proposed wind energy developments in the region.

The recent approval of Glenora Wind Farm, together with other projects proposed or under consideration in North Mayo, demonstrates the increasing concentration of wind energy developments along this coastline. When each project is considered in isolation, the true scale of landscape transformation may not be fully appreciated.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU), as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, requires the assessment of direct, indirect and cumulative effects of developments on population, biodiversity, land, landscape, cultural heritage and material assets. I do not believe sufficient weight has been given to the combined impact these developments will have on tourism, visual amenity, cultural heritage and landscape character.

The cumulative impact on the Lacken-Ballycastle area cannot be ignored. Local communities have worked tirelessly to promote North Mayo as a high-quality tourism destination. Significant public investment and community effort have been directed towards strengthening the area's tourism offering. The progressive industrialisation of the landscape threatens to undermine those efforts and diminish the long-term economic opportunities available to local communities.

5. CONCLUSION

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully submit that the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm would have an unacceptable impact on:

- The tourism appeal of the North Mayo region.
- The scenic and visual character of the landscape.
- The integrity of the Wild Atlantic Way experience.
- The cultural heritage and identity of the area.
- The enjoyment of the locality by residents and visitors.
- The preservation of a landscape that holds significant personal and family importance.
- The long-term sustainability of tourism as a key economic driver in North Mayo.

- The cumulative landscape character of the region when considered alongside existing, approved and proposed wind energy developments.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

I further request that the Board have regard to its obligations under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the European Landscape Convention, and the relevant provisions of the Mayo County Development Plan concerning the protection of landscape character, visual amenity, cultural heritage and tourism assets.

The North Mayo coastline is a landscape of exceptional scenic, cultural and historic importance. Once its character is altered, it cannot easily be restored. The precautionary principle should therefore apply, and permission should be refused.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret Slattery