

NOEL & LISA TIGHE
Carrowniskey
Ballycastle
County Mayo
F26 W7EF
lisatomas20@hotmail.com
22nd 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 wish to formally object to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development.

As a resident of Ballycastle, I am deeply concerned about the impact this development will have on our landscape, local communities, road network, schools, tourism industry and quality of life. I do not believe that this project has been proposed in an appropriate location, particularly given the sensitivity of the receiving environment and the cumulative impact of multiple wind farm developments planned across North Mayo.

Impact on a Highly Sensitive Landscape

The proposed development is located within one of the most distinctive and sensitive landscapes in Ireland. The wider Ballycastle and Lacken area is renowned for its spectacular coastal scenery, rich heritage and tourism attractions, including the Céide Fields, Downpatrick Head and the Wild Atlantic Way. Visitors and residents alike value this area because of its unspoilt natural beauty and unique sense of place.

The proposed turbines would be visible from my home in Ballycastle and from numerous locations throughout the surrounding area. Their scale and dominance would fundamentally alter the character of this landscape by introducing an industrial-scale development into an area

currently defined by its rural and scenic qualities. Once such a landscape is industrialised, the visual impact cannot simply be reversed.

I believe that An Coimisiún Pleanála must carefully consider whether it is appropriate to locate such a large-scale industrial development within a landscape that has significant environmental, cultural and tourism value.

Tourism and the Future of North Mayo

The Ballycastle and Lacken areas have enormous tourism potential. Local businesses, community groups, Mayo County Council and Fáilte Ireland have invested considerable resources in promoting North Mayo as a destination based on its scenery, heritage and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The cumulative impact of the Tirawley Wind Farm, together with other existing and proposed wind energy projects in North Mayo, threatens to undermine these efforts. Visitors travel to North Mayo because it offers landscapes that are unique, dramatic and largely untouched. The introduction of multiple wind farms across this region risks changing the very qualities that attract visitors in the first place.

I am concerned that the long-term economic potential of sustainable tourism is being overlooked in favour of developments that will permanently alter the character of this unique landscape.

Planning Restrictions on Local Families

One aspect of this proposal that I find particularly frustrating is the contrast between the difficulties faced by local families seeking planning permission and the scale of development now being proposed.

My family experienced the challenges involved in obtaining planning permission for our own home. We had to satisfy strict planning requirements and demonstrate compliance with policies designed to protect the rural landscape and ensure appropriate development.

It is therefore difficult to understand how local families can face considerable obstacles when trying to build modest homes within their own communities, while an industrial-scale wind farm consisting of 16 turbines, extensive road infrastructure, a substation and associated works can be considered acceptable in the same highly sensitive landscape. The inconsistency is difficult to reconcile and raises legitimate concerns regarding the protection of rural character and landscape amenity.

Traffic Disruption and School Access

I am particularly concerned about the traffic impacts associated with the development and how they will affect families within the area. During the construction phase, local residents will be

required to deal with abnormal load deliveries, road widening works, temporary traffic management measures and significant disruption on local roads.

As a parent, I regularly travel the local road network while bringing my children to **Newtownwhite National School, Killala** and **Lacken Cross Secondary School**. The prospect of major construction traffic, roadworks and turbine deliveries disrupting these journeys is completely unacceptable.

Parents already face enough challenges managing school transport, work commitments and family responsibilities. Introducing years of construction-related disruption on roads used daily by schoolchildren will inevitably cause delays, inconvenience and safety concerns for families throughout the area.

The applicant must clearly explain how children, parents, school staff and school transport services will be protected from the impacts of these substantial construction activities. I do not believe that the full effect of these disruptions on local families has been adequately addressed.

Serious Concerns Regarding Shadow Flicker and Lacken Cross Secondary School

I am also extremely concerned about the issue of shadow flicker and its potential impact on **Lacken Cross Secondary School** in which my young children attend.

It is my understanding that this school was omitted from consideration during previous assessments relating to shadow flicker impacts. If this is the case, serious questions need to be asked as to why an important educational facility serving local families was not fully considered. The omission of a secondary school from such assessments should be a matter of significant concern for both the applicant and the planning authority.

The potential impact of shadow flicker on a school environment warrants careful scrutiny. Schools should be locations where students can learn in a safe, comfortable and supportive environment without unnecessary distractions or environmental impacts.

This matter is particularly concerning for families of students who experience additional sensory needs and for students who may have neurological or medical conditions where sensitivity to visual disturbance is a concern. As a parent, I believe that any potential impacts on schoolchildren should be fully investigated and transparently assessed before any decision is made on this application.

The applicant should be required to clearly demonstrate whether Lacken Cross Secondary School has been assessed, what the predicted impacts are, and why the school may have been omitted from previous considerations. Given the importance of protecting the welfare and educational environment of students, this issue should not be overlooked.

Cumulative Impact

My concerns extend beyond the Tirawley Wind Farm proposal considered in isolation. North Mayo is currently facing the prospect of several wind energy developments either approved, proposed or under consideration. The cumulative visual, environmental, tourism and community impacts of these projects must be fully assessed.

When viewed together, these developments represent a significant transformation of the character of North Mayo and raise legitimate concerns regarding whether the region is being subjected to an excessive concentration of industrial-scale energy infrastructure.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development.

The development would be visible from my home in Ballycastle and would introduce an industrial-scale project into one of Ireland's most historic, scenic and sensitive landscapes. It threatens the tourism potential of North Mayo, raises serious concerns regarding traffic disruption, school access, shadow flicker impacts on Lacken Cross Secondary School, environmental protection and the cumulative industrialisation of the region.

As somebody who experienced first-hand the difficulties involved in securing planning permission for a family home, I find it deeply concerning that a development of this scale could be considered for such a unique and valuable landscape. The long-term interests of local communities, families and future generations should take precedence over inappropriate industrial development in this location.

I therefore urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm.

Yours faithfully,

Noel & Lisa Tighe, Carrowniskey, Ballycastle.