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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. My family home as been identified as H113 within the EIAR. This development poses significant and irreversible risks to the local environment, biodiversity and local residents. These issues, coupled with shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, justify a refusal of permission for this project.

Having reviewed the public information provided and engaged with the community consultation materials, I wish to raise the following concerns:

## **1. Visual Impact**

The proposed development comprises up to sixteen large-scale wind turbines together with associated infrastructure including a substation, battery storage facility, internal roads and grid connection infrastructure.

The turbines will represent highly prominent vertical structures over an extensive rural landscape.

The proposal would fundamentally alter the existing landscape character by introducing industrial-scale infrastructure into an area valued for its open countryside, scenic views and natural heritage.

Particular concern arises regarding:

- cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms;
- visibility from public roads and recreational routes;
- impact on recognised scenic viewpoints;
- long-distance visibility across the landscape;
- aviation lighting during darkness.

The landscape currently provides an important sense of openness and tranquillity that would be permanently changed.

Although the EIAR may conclude that impacts are acceptable, the assessment relies heavily upon theoretical visibility mapping and selected viewpoints. These do not always reflect the lived experience of residents and visitors.

The Board should give significant weight to the permanent transformation of the landscape.

## **2. Impact on Tourism**

Tourism forms an important component of the local economy.

Visitors are attracted by:

- the natural landscape;
- walking routes;
- scenic drives;
- wildlife;
- outdoor recreation;
- the area's peaceful rural character.

Large industrial wind developments can reduce the attractiveness of such landscapes where visitors seek unspoilt scenery.

The EIAR should not dismiss these impacts solely because tourism continues elsewhere in counties containing wind farms. The issue is whether this particular landscape contributes to tourism locally.

The Board should carefully consider whether the economic benefits of tourism have been fully assessed.

### **3. Noise**

Although the applicant indicates compliance with recognised noise standards, concerns remain regarding the long-term impact of operational turbine noise.

Potential impacts include:

- continuous aerodynamic noise;
- tonal characteristics;
- amplitude modulation;
- low frequency noise;
- night-time disturbance;
- cumulative noise from multiple turbines.

Noise modelling represents predicted rather than measured outcomes.

Actual operating conditions vary considerably depending upon:

- wind direction;
- atmospheric conditions;
- turbine operation;
- seasonal variation.

Residents living near wind farms frequently report disturbance that may not be fully reflected by average noise limits.

It is respectfully submitted that precaution should be exercised where residential amenity may be affected over the operational lifetime of the project.

### **4. Health and Wellbeing**

The planning process should recognise that health extends beyond measurable medical effects.

The World Health Organization defines health as including physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Potential concerns include:

- sleep disturbance;
- stress associated with turbine operation;
- visual dominance;
- shadow flicker;
- anxiety regarding continuous industrial activity;
- reduction in enjoyment of homes and outdoor spaces.

Even where direct causal links remain scientifically debated, the precautionary principle should apply where residents may experience significant deterioration in residential amenity.

The cumulative psychological effects of:

- industrialisation of the landscape;
- noise;
- lighting;
- moving turbine blades;
- perceived loss of environmental quality

should not be underestimated.

Planning legislation requires consideration of residential amenity and quality of life as important planning matters.

## **5. Cumulative Effects**

The proposal should not be considered in isolation.

The Board should carefully assess:

- cumulative visual impacts;
- cumulative landscape change;
- cumulative noise;
- cumulative ecological impacts;
- cumulative effects on tourism;
- cumulative impacts arising from other existing and permitted renewable energy developments in the region.

Incremental development can collectively result in substantial environmental change even where individual projects appear acceptable.

## Conclusion

While renewable energy is an essential component of Ireland's transition to a low-carbon economy, it must be delivered in a manner that protects landscapes, communities and environmental quality.

In my opinion, the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm would:

- result in significant adverse visual impacts;
- undermine the scenic character upon which local tourism depends;
- create ongoing concerns regarding operational noise;
- adversely affect the health, wellbeing and residential amenity of nearby residents; and
- contribute to unacceptable cumulative impacts within the wider landscape.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses permission for the proposed development. Alternatively, should permission be considered, I request that substantial reductions in turbine numbers, turbine height and associated infrastructure be required together with significantly strengthened conditions relating to noise monitoring, shadow flicker, landscape mitigation and community protection.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Rían Doris