

June 22, 2026

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To: An Bord Pleanála
RE: Response for Appeal to Denial for Proposed Windfarm on Curraghodea
Appeal reference number: **PAX03.324270**

Protection of Residential Amenity at my cottage

My cottage at Letterkelly, Miltown Malbay has an Eircode reference **V95 XE8D**. Cable broadband has been located to the entrance at the main road. I have maintained water and electric utilities since the 1970s when I purchased it. I am currently looking into application for a restoration grant. Application process is in initial stages.

The cottage is numbered H199 and is located 578m from the nearest proposed turbine, according to the proposal itself. However, my cottage has not been included in the proposal. According to the proposal, there are no residences closer than 700m from the proposed turbines. Yet my cottage has been on maps for almost 300 years. As far as the EIAR for this development is concerned, my cottage does not exist.

A serious concern is that the turbines might threaten the sole water supply to my cottage, which is located no more than a couple of hundred meters from a turbine and borrow pit.

It is with great skepticism that I read about the claims that residential amenity will be unaffected by this development. How can the preservation of residential amenity be predicted for a house that is not deemed to even exist? Noise and turbine shadow measurements have never been made for my cottage. Yet, this EIAR claims my residential amenity will be unaffected. An Bord Pleanála must infer that the previous Clare Council decisions to reject this application were entirely correct as developers cannot be rewarded for the deliberate omission of a property, particularly when its very existence negates many of their claims. I also note that a nearby derelict cottage has been mapped and assessed. Curiously, this cottage does not have an Eircode. I believe that this is further evidence that my property was deliberately omitted.

The reason for the omission of my cottage is clear. Its inclusion poses a major problem for the developers in that it is considerably closer to a proposed turbine than the stated guidelines of 700m.

Here's a bit of background about myself and my cottage:

I have been a property owner in Letterkelly, Miltown Malbay, County Clare since 1972. It was then that I bought the 300-year-old stone cottage at the south skirt of Curraghodea. For more than 50 years now I have been writing *in* that place and writing *about* that lovely place, being inspired by the beautiful landscape, by the wildlife, and — most of all — by its exquisite calm.

The cottage out on the bog beneath Curraghodea has been and continues to be an important source and inspiration for my poetry and has resulted in the publication of several books. *At the Edge of the Western Wave* was published in 2004 by an American publisher. *Along the Flaggy Shore, Poems from West Clare* was published in 2018 by Salmon Poetry (Ireland's largest literary publisher based at the Cliffs of Moher). My best-selling memoir, *The Keys to the Cottage, Stories from the West of Ireland* (2015) chronicles more than 40 years of being a part of the fabric of Letterkelly, from saving hay to cutting turf, and walking the roads from Cloonanaha Chapel to Spanish Point.

I was greatly concerned when Mt. Callan became the site of huge wind turbines, disrupting the tranquility and utterly altering the landscape. And now with the proposed set of turbines for Curraghodea, my concern has turned to alarm. These turbines are significantly larger than those on Mt. Callan at 175 metres! The turbines that are proposed for my side of the hill will loom over my cottage — one turbine in particular is very close in proximity. They

threaten the blessed tranquility of my writing retreat with their size, noise, and flicker, transforming the place from its pastoral calm and disrupting the quietude.

Another issue of concern is the stone circle CL031-052, which is located on Curraghodea in rough pasture to the east of a narrow farm track. Four stones are arranged in a semi-circle, three upright stones of thin shale and a prostrate stone. The monument is c. 48m to the east of an existing farm track and a second farm track, proposed for upgrade, is located to the west of the first track, c. 79m west of the monument. A borrow pit is proposed to be located immediately to the west of the existing track due for upgrade, c. 86m to the west-south-west of the stone circle. Turbine 5 is proposed to be located c. 275m to the north of the monument with the proposed location of T6 c.570m to the south-west. The proposed 33kV underground cabling is located c. 290m to the south of the monument.

Yet another concern is the detrimental effect these turbines will have on the wildlife of Curraghodea — particularly the hen harrier, a protected species — and their delicate habitat there. And still another worry is the effect of the turbines on the ancient stone circle at the top of Curraghodea. Not only will the presence of the turbines forever disrupt the sacred heritage, but their construction may well threaten the stones themselves.

I am mindful of the difficulty in getting building permits/permissions in the area. So, in all these years I have maintained the utilities to the cottage with the plan of someday renovating, so that my family will be able to share in this unique environment and landscape that has inspired my writing for decades. As stated earlier, we are in the initial stages of applying for a restoration grant to restore the cottage.

One member of my family (whose name is actually Finn MacCool) has epilepsy and might never be able to come to the cottage because light flicker from the rotating blades has been known to cause seizures in people suffering from epilepsy.

On a recent visit home, I couldn't help but notice the abundance of wind farms in the immediate area. Hasn't this area we call home given up enough already for renewable energy without destroying it altogether?

Sincerely,

Carlos Reyes

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