

Submission on Planning Application PAX12.324290

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Date: 10 July 2026

Re: Proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm, near Manorhamilton, County Leitrim

A Chara,

I wish to make this submission as a local elected representative and on behalf of the many residents and communities who have expressed deep concern regarding the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm development near Manorhamilton, County Leitrim.

I recognise the importance of renewable energy and the need to respond to the climate crisis. However, the transition to renewable energy must be carried out in a responsible and sustainable manner. It cannot come at the expense of irreplaceable natural habitats, vulnerable ecosystems or the wellbeing of rural communities.

As a public representative, I have a responsibility to ensure that the concerns of local people are properly heard and fully considered. Having reviewed this proposal, I believe there are serious issues that require careful examination before any decision is made.

Protection of Our Natural Heritage

North Leitrim is home to some of the county's most valuable and sensitive landscapes. The proposed development is located within an upland area containing extensive blanket bog, a habitat of national and international environmental importance.

These peatland areas have developed over thousands of years and provide essential services, including carbon storage, flood management, water regulation and biodiversity support. Once damaged, these functions cannot easily be restored.

The scale of construction required for fourteen large turbines, including foundations, access roads, drainage works and associated infrastructure, would result in significant and potentially permanent changes to this landscape.

At a time when Ireland is seeking to protect and restore its natural environment, we must carefully consider whether the destruction and disturbance of intact peatland is compatible with our wider environmental commitments.

Concerns Regarding Biodiversity

The proposed site is located within an area of exceptional ecological value. The uplands around Dough Mountain and Saddle Hill provide important habitats for a wide range of protected species.

The presence of species such as Hen Harrier, Pine Marten, Otter, Irish Hare and several bat species demonstrates the importance of this landscape. The wider area also supports a variety of birdlife and specialist upland habitats.

The potential impacts of this development extend beyond the immediate footprint of the turbines. Habitat loss, fragmentation, increased disturbance and changes to the landscape could have long-term consequences for wildlife.

The Marsh Fritillary butterfly and other sensitive species rely on suitable, connected habitats. In an area with such ecological importance, the precautionary principle must guide decision-making.

Impact on Local Residents and Quality of Life

As a councillor, I have listened to the concerns of residents living in the surrounding area. Many feel that the scale and location of this proposal have not been adequately addressed.

The proposed turbines, with blade tip heights of approximately 185 metres, would create a major industrial presence within a rural landscape that has long been valued for its character, tranquillity and natural beauty.

Residents have raised concerns regarding noise, shadow flicker, visual impact and the effect of living in close proximity to such large structures. These impacts are not simply matters of planning measurements; they relate directly to people's homes, communities and everyday quality of life.

It is essential that all occupied dwellings and residential properties potentially affected by this development are accurately identified and assessed. Local knowledge and the lived experience of residents must be given appropriate weight in the planning process.

Geological and Water Protection Concerns

The geological characteristics of the proposed site also require careful consideration.

Dough Mountain contains complex limestone formations, including underground cavities and swallow holes, which indicate a sensitive geological environment. The extensive excavation and drainage works required for this development may create risks to ground stability and natural water movement.

The area is also connected through a network of springs, streams and underground water systems. Any construction-related impacts, including sediment movement or pollution, could potentially affect surrounding watercourses and downstream lakes.

The protection of Leitrim's water resources must remain a priority, particularly where the consequences of disturbance may extend beyond the immediate development site.

Scale of Development and Precedent

The exceptional scale of this proposal must be acknowledged. Fourteen turbines of this size would represent a significant industrialisation of an upland rural area.

It is also important to note that a previous proposal for smaller turbines in this locality did not receive planning permission due to concerns regarding its impacts. The current proposal is considerably larger and therefore requires an even higher level of scrutiny.

Renewable energy development must be balanced with the protection of communities and the environment. The fact that a project contributes to renewable energy targets does not remove the requirement for appropriate siting and responsible planning.

Conclusion

I fully support the need for renewable energy and climate action. However, I believe that protecting our natural heritage, supporting rural communities and ensuring sustainable planning must remain central to all decisions.

Having considered the environmental, ecological, geological and community concerns associated with the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála undertake the most rigorous assessment possible.

If the identified concerns cannot be satisfactorily addressed, I request that planning permission for this development be refused in order to protect the unique landscape, biodiversity and communities of North Leitrim.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Mary Bohan

Drumkeeran

Co. Leitrim