

Alan Lynch
Doolough, Geesala
Co. Mayo
7th August 202

The Secretary,
An Coimisiun Pleanala
64, Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Reference: PAX16. 324387

RE: Objection to the Proposed Windfarm in Muingmore / Doolough

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development.

I moved to North Mayo because I fell in love with the place. The scenery, the wildlife, the peace and quiet and the chance to get out and enjoy the outdoors were a huge part of why I chose to make my home here. Like many people, I worked hard for years and spent my life savings buying a house in this area. I chose to settle here because of what North Mayo is today.

I want to be clear that I am not against renewable energy. I understand Ireland needs renewable energy and I support sensible developments in the right locations. My concern is that this particular development is in the wrong place and would change this area forever.

Anyone who knows this part of Mayo knows how special it is. The bog, the wildlife, the open countryside, the dark skies and the feeling of being away from it all are what make this area different. The proposed turbines would be up to 180 metres high and would become a dominant feature of the landscape for decades to come. Once they are built, there is no putting the area back the way it was.

One of the things that struck me after moving here was just how much wildlife there is around the place. It's part of everyday life. I've stood outside the house on summer evenings listening to Curlew calling across the bog while watching birds of prey hanging in the wind overhead. I've seen hares crossing fields and wildlife that many people in other parts of the country rarely get to experience. You don't have to go looking for nature in North Mayo, it's all around you. Those simple moments are a big part of why I moved here and why I care so much about protecting this area.

I am very worried about the impact this development could have on wildlife. The company's own studies looked at 19 bird species and found that Common Kestrel had the highest collision risk, followed by Greylag Goose and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Public records also show species such as Curlew, Red Grouse, Common Snipe, Jack Snipe, Barn Owl and Greylag Goose in the wider Muingmore area. The applicant also carried out a survey for the protected Marsh Fritillary butterfly, which highlights the ecological importance of the area.

I am also concerned about the impact on the bog and surrounding environment. Mayo is known for its blanket bogs and peatlands, and they are an important part of the county's natural heritage. Disturbing large areas of peat to construct roads, foundations and other infrastructure raises serious concerns, particularly given the wider environmental sensitivities of the area.

Another major concern is the impact on people who live here. These turbines would not be here for a few years. They would become part of everyday life for generations. People would be living with turbine noise, shadow flicker, flashing aviation lights and the constant visual presence of structures that would dominate the skyline. The World Health Organisation recognises environmental noise, including wind turbine noise, as an issue that can affect wellbeing and sleep.

To be completely honest, if these turbines had already been standing here when I was looking to buy my home, I would not have moved to the area. I chose North Mayo because of the landscape, the wildlife and the peace and quiet. Those were the reasons I spent my savings buying a home here.

Like many people, most of my savings are tied up in my house. I did not buy it as an investment. I bought it because I wanted to build a life here. While I appreciate that planning decisions are not based solely on property values, it is impossible to ignore the concern that a development of this scale could affect the attractiveness of the area and make it less appealing for families looking to settle here in the future.

I also find it difficult to understand how this proposal fits with the recently launched Wild Mayo tourism strategy. North Mayo is being promoted because of its scenery, outdoor activities, heritage, Gaeltacht culture and Wild Atlantic Way experience. These are the very same reasons that many people choose to live here and many visitors choose to come here. It seems contradictory to promote the area because of its unspoilt landscape while at the same time allowing a development that would fundamentally alter that landscape.

It also feels as though Mayo is constantly being asked to take more and more of these developments. Renewable energy is important, but there has to be a balance. Local communities, wildlife, tourism and the character of an area matter too.

I moved here because of the beauty of the place, the wildlife, the outdoor lifestyle and the peace that comes with living in this part of the country. I genuinely believe this proposal threatens many of the things that make North Mayo such a special place to live.

For all of these reasons, I hope the Board will refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development.

Yours sincerely

Alan Lynch