

Muingmore Wind Farm — Observation Template

Case Ref: PAX16.324387 — An Coimisiún Pleanála

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An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

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Re: Observation on Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development (Case Ref: PAX16.324387)

A Chara,

My name is AnnMarie, and I am writing to object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm. I was born and raised in Doohoma and continue to visit the area frequently as family still reside there. I also have a sister who resides in the area where the proposed Wind Mills would be located and I would have major concerns on the impact on the her health and of those who live nearby due to the significant noise and light pollution that these farms produce. The impact of this pollution over a period of time can cause damaging mental and psychological distress to nearby residents and as a result lead to deteriorating physical health. I have spoken to residents in other areas where wind farms currently exist and all have cited that these farms have had a negative impact; including sleep difficulties, increased anxiety, depressed mood. They have also cited that their children are notably suffering from disturbed sleep as a result. This is causing significant unnecessary distress and unhappiness in households.

As well as the detrimental effects to residents, the environmental impact of such a farm is also of great concern. This is a place of wild, natural beauty which has existed thousands of years. The landscape is home to wildlife and ecosystems which would be destroyed by the infrastructure of this farm.

Turbines of the height proposed for this site, up to 180 metres to blade tip, are a different order of scale to anything currently in this landscape. This area experiences strong, unbroken Atlantic wind for much of the year, and I am seriously concerned about the noise these turbines would generate in those conditions, close to homes, for the guaranteed 35-year lifespan of the project.

Although my home does not fall within the shadow flicker zone for the proposed turbine layout, my sisters home does. Shadow flicker of this kind can have a real effect on people's health and quality of life over months and years, and I am asking the Board to look carefully at what that would mean for homes in this position.

This area supports wildlife that would be put at serious risk by a development of this scale, including species such as the kestrel, barn owl, heron, cuckoo and corncrake, as well as otters and native lizards, and it lies on a route used by migrating swans. Construction on deep peatland of this kind risks lasting damage to habitats that cannot be replaced.

Blacksod Bay is a protected site, home to rare maerl beds, seals, otters and internationally significant numbers of wintering birds. The proposed site sits on peatland that drains directly towards the bay, and construction of this scale carries a real risk of silt and runoff reaching that water, damaging habitats that would not recover within any timeframe that matters to the species living there now.

A development of this scale, this close to residential properties, is likely to have a significant negative effect on property values in the area, at real cost to families who have invested their lives here.

This is a designated tourism area. The Wild Mayo Destination and Experience Development Plan, backed by Fáilte Ireland and Mayo County Council, depends on this landscape remaining wild and undeveloped. Thirteen turbines at up to 180 metres in height, visible for miles, would undermine the very qualities that strategy is built around, and put at risk the businesses and livelihoods that depend on tourism here.

There are thousands of acres of land already identified and designated for renewable energy development elsewhere in the country, without the same level of harm to blanket bog, protected habitats and established communities. Where a less damaging alternative exists, I believe the Board is entitled to ask why this particular site has been chosen.

Mayo County Council's own Renewable Energy Strategy, adopted only last week, identifies peatland such as this as unsuitable for wind energy development, because of the damage that construction on deep, waterlogged bog can do to carbon storage, water quality and the surrounding environment. This is the council's own considered judgement, reached independently of this application, and it is difficult to see how this development can be reconciled with it.

I want to be clear that I am not against renewable energy, and I understand the importance of it for the country. But this particular site is not the right place for a project of this scale.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ann Marie Keegan

07/08/2026