

Aoife Hickey
Drogheda Road
Slane
Co. Meath

6th August 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64, Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

FORMAL OBJECTION LETTER ... RE PLANNING APPLICATION, MUINGMORE, REFERENCE 324387

Dear Sir/Madam

I, Aoife Hickey, formally object to the proposed planning located within the townlands of Muingmore (An Mhoing Mhór), Doolough (Dumha Locha), Tristia (Troiste), Moneynierin (Moing an Iarainn) and Bangor (Baingear) County Mayo, planning reference PAX16.324387 for a development consisting of 13 wind turbines, a 110kV substation, battery energy storage system (BESS) and all associated infrastructure & infrastructure (both temporary & permanent) by RWE.

Effects on local communities

I have strong family connections to family who reside in the immediate area of the proposed development & am very concerned about the effect it would have on our community. Having visited frequently over the years growing up & now as an adult it is a lovely, thriving area, with many people having moved back home to live in recent years. People enjoy the area because of its tranquillity, scenic views, nature & wildlife. Walking the country roads is often an opportunity for people to catch-up with each other & relax.

Lack of consultation

There has been no meaningful, honest engagement with my family or the community over the proposed development. The community feels completely ignored & disrespected. It strongly lacks confidence that the applicant (RWE) has any regard for the environs or the safety of its residents.

Tourism

The area relies heavily on tourism, which in turn provides jobs. Jobs are provided in Geesala, Bangor & Belmullet in the local businesses which are thriving with the influx of tourists the Wild Atlantic Way is attracting. This is currently being expanded on with the enactment of the **Wild Mayo Destination & Experience development plan for North Mayo & Erris**. This will all be negatively affected if the windfarm development goes ahead, as tourists will not come, the locals will lose their jobs & therefore not have income to spend in the local businesses.

If the views & peacefulness of the area are destroyed, there will be no reason for these tourists to visit. That is the draw to the area, the rugged coastlines, wildlife, nature, community & heritage. A slower pace of life & culture.

The heavy goods vehicles that will be on the roads will be damaging & disruptive and will have to travel considerable distances. Many people around the area & tourists alike, enjoy peaceful walks during the day when the roads are quieter, to exercise, relax & unwind, this will not be possible as it would be too dangerous given the volume of heavy goods traffic which would have to use these roads to complete the works. I myself look forward to visiting my homeplace, recharging & connecting, both with the community & nature.

The area under consideration for this development is totally unsuitable.

Environmental Impacts

Noise pollution from associated works & traffic during construction & then ongoing from the turbines & the BESS facility.

Light pollution from the BESS compound & aviation lighting on the turbines

Visual impact not only by the residential properties but the beauty/tourist spots such as Shra Beach, Doolough beach. And further afield from Blacksod, Wild Nephin National Park & Achill amongst many others.

Peat extraction this will be devastating for the wildlife, flora & fauna.

Horses I am also very concerned for the welfare of the wild horses who live in the lands of Muingmore, there has been no mention of them in the EIAR.

Birds the migratory birds which overwinter within the catchment area of the development site at Blacksod Bay.

Blacksod Bay is an area of significant importance, designated as an SAC & an SPA.

Maerl beds The maerl beds are protected under annexe V of the EU habitats directive, taking centuries to form & are nature's own carbon capture & storage.

Streams small streams run throughout the proposed site & feed into the Blacksod Bay area of the Atlantic Ocean.

Contamination – given the heavy machinery that will be required to complete the works there is an alarmingly high risk of contamination from oil, diesel, chemicals etc, which would impact the peatland, streams, Blacksod Bay & wildlife.

Wildlife, the area is home to many mammals & insects, as well as birds & fish. I often enjoy watching the Irish Hare rambling along the road & fields, I believe it to be protected under the EU habitats directive, along with the otters & badgers.

What sort of a future will the area hold for myself & other young people?

Why should the tax-payer have to foot the bill for the grants for foreign companies to build windfarms in Ireland, the constraint payments made to the windfarms when the national grid cannot accept the power generated by existing windfarms. Why are electric prices continually rising, with Ireland in particular having amongst the highest electric bills in Ireland?

The Mayo County Development Plan defines the area as unsuitable for windfarm development.

I am respectfully asking An Coimisiún Pleanála to please preserve our beautiful area & wildlife & *decline* permission to RWE for the planning of this windfarm (reference PAX16.324387).

Thank you for taking time to consider my submission.

Yours faithfully

Aoife Hickey