

7th August 2026

REF - An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PAX16.324387

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed application for the construction of 13 industrial wind turbines located within the townlands of Muingmore (An Mhoing Mhór), Doolough (Dumha Locha), Tristia (Troiste), Moneynierin (Moing an Iarainn) and Bangor (Baingear) County Mayo.

This is not simply a planning objection based on personal preference. It is a deeply felt plea from someone who made the life-changing decision to move back to this remarkable area 12 years ago to raise my children in a place of exceptional natural beauty. I chose to build our lives here because I wanted my children to grow up surrounded by open landscapes, peaceful countryside, abundant wildlife, and the sense of wellbeing that comes from living in an unspoilt environment. That decision was made with great care with my wife who is a native to the area and it has shaped our family life ever since.

I am also a construction contractor with over 20 years' experience working on large-scale construction projects. I therefore have a very clear understanding of what a development of this scale involves in practical terms. The construction of 13 industrial wind turbines of this size is not a minor intervention in the landscape. It requires significant civil engineering works, excavation, access roads, heavy plant and machinery, the movement of substantial quantities of materials, and prolonged construction traffic.

From my professional experience, I am particularly concerned about the impact that a project of this scale could have on the narrow local road network and on the surrounding ground and landscape during the construction phase. These are rural roads serving homes, farms and local communities and were never designed for sustained movements of abnormal loads and heavy construction traffic. I believe the potential

effects of the construction phase, as well as the permanent development itself, need to be considered extremely carefully.

The landscape proposed for this development is not an empty space waiting to be industrialised. It is a place of immense beauty, character, and significance. The rolling countryside, expansive views, changing seasons, and peaceful surroundings are what make this area special. They are part of its identity and part of the lives of those who call it home.

The installation of 13 towering wind turbines would fundamentally and permanently alter the character of this landscape. Structures of such enormous height would dominate the skyline from many miles away, replacing breathtaking natural views with an industrial development that simply does not belong in such a treasured setting. Once this landscape has been transformed, it can never truly be restored to what it once was and the damage will be irreparable and irreversible.

The visual impact alone would be devastating. Visitors come to this area in the Wild Atlantic Way because of its tranquillity and scenic beauty. Residents treasure it for the same reasons. These turbines would become the defining feature of the landscape, overwhelming everything that currently makes this place unique. It is difficult to understand how such a proposal could ever be considered appropriate in an area that has remained largely untouched for generations.

Beyond the visual damage, I am also deeply concerned about the impact this development could have on the physical and mental wellbeing of those living nearby.

Many residents moved here for peace, quiet, and a connection with nature. These qualities are known to contribute positively to mental health, reducing stress and improving quality of life. Replacing peaceful surroundings with constant movement, noise, flashing aviation lights, and the visual dominance of industrial turbines risks causing ongoing anxiety and distress for many people.

While there is continuing scientific debate about some health impacts associated with wind turbines, there are genuine concerns raised by

residents living near similar developments regarding issues such as noise disturbance, sleep disruption, shadow flicker, and reduced enjoyment of their homes and outdoor spaces. Even where research reaches different conclusions, the experiences of communities should not simply be dismissed. Planning decisions must place the wellbeing of existing residents at the forefront rather than asking them to bear the burden of uncertainty for decades to come.

The cumulative effect of living beside such a large industrial development should not be underestimated. Home is meant to be a place of comfort, peace, and security. For many families, including my own, the proposed turbines threaten to replace that peace with constant reminders of a development that we neither wanted nor welcomed.

There are also serious concerns regarding wildlife and the wider natural environment. This area supports a rich variety of birds, mammals, and other species that depend upon these habitats. Large-scale developments inevitably bring construction traffic, extensive ground works, new access roads, and long-term disturbance. The environmental cost to local ecosystems deserves careful consideration.

The character of our local community must also be taken into account. Our area is supported by visitors who value its outstanding scenery and peaceful atmosphere. Tourism, local businesses, walking routes, cycling, and outdoor recreation all depend upon preserving the qualities that attract people here. Once those qualities are diminished, the wider economic consequences may be felt for many years.

Property values are another concern. Families invest their savings and futures in homes located in beautiful rural settings because they value the surrounding environment. It is entirely reasonable for homeowners to worry that an industrial wind farm of this scale could negatively affect both the desirability and value of nearby properties. While this may not be the determining planning consideration, it is a very real consequence for those expected to live with this development every day.

I fully recognise the importance of renewable energy and the need to address climate change. I support responsible efforts to reduce carbon

emissions and invest in sustainable energy. However, supporting renewable energy does not mean accepting every proposal regardless of its location. There must be a balance between achieving environmental objectives and protecting landscapes of exceptional value and the communities who live within them.

Not every location is suitable for industrial-scale energy infrastructure. Sensitive landscapes such as this should be protected rather than sacrificed. Alternative locations with less visual, environmental, and social impact should be explored before developments are imposed on communities that have so much to lose.

Planning policy rightly requires decision-makers to consider landscape impact, residential amenity, biodiversity, cumulative effects, and the public interest. I respectfully ask that these considerations are given the weight they deserve.

This proposal represents far more than the construction of renewable energy infrastructure. It represents a permanent transformation of a cherished landscape, the loss of irreplaceable views, and the erosion of the peaceful environment that so many families deliberately chose as their home.

Twelve years ago, I brought my children back here because I believed they deserved to grow up surrounded by nature rather than industry. I wanted them to experience the beauty of this place, to appreciate its wildlife, its open spaces, and its tranquillity. It is heartbreaking to think that the very landscape I chose for them could now be dominated by 13 enormous wind turbines that would change its character forever.

Future generations deserve the opportunity to enjoy this landscape just as previous generations have. Once these turbines are built, the damage cannot simply be undone. The decision you make today will shape this community for decades to come.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully urge the planning authority to refuse this application. Please protect this extraordinary landscape, preserve the wellbeing of its residents, safeguard its wildlife, and ensure that this

beautiful place remains a source of pride and inspiration for generations yet to come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my objections and for carefully weighing the long-term consequences of this proposal before reaching your decision

Sincerely

Brendan O'Sullivan

Doolough Resident