

Doolough,
Geesala,
Ballina,
Co Mayo
F26 P2Y1

Case Number PAX16.324387

My name is Bridget O'Sullivan and I am 13 years old. I was born in England, but my family moved home to Doolough, when I was two years old. My mum is from Geesala, and my parents wanted my sisters and me to grow up surrounded by the peace, quiet and safety of Erris.

Although we travel to England regularly to visit family, I always love coming home to Doolough. It is where I feel happiest and most relaxed. I enjoy jogging on the quiet roads near our home, rowing, boxing and playing football outside with my sisters.

My dad still commutes to work in London every week and has done so for the past 12 years since we moved home. It is very stressful and tiring for him to travel back and forth every week and to work in such a busy city. The moment he comes home to Doolough, we can see him begin to relax and leave behind all the hustle and bustle of London.

On Saturday mornings, we often go for hikes through the bog or walks along Doolough beach together. My dad always says that being there with us, surrounded by the quiet landscape and fresh air, makes all the stress of the working week worthwhile.

My mum manages the Erris Coast Hotel, which is a very big part of our family life. In a couple of years, many of my friends and I hope to have our first jobs there, just like lots of other local teenagers do. It is more than just a hotel to us. It provides jobs for young people in our area and gives us the chance to stay living and working in the place we call home. I hope one day to work there too.

That is why I am so worried about the proposed wind farm. The peace, quiet and beautiful landscape are not just nice views to us. They are a very important part of our family life and one of the main reasons my parents chose to raise us here.

I worry that giant turbines, construction traffic, noise and a wind farm landscape would completely change the place we call home. Once this landscape is changed, it will never feel the same again.

I feel very lucky to have grown up in Doolough, surrounded by mountains, beaches and quiet countryside. I hope that children in the future will have the same chance to enjoy this peaceful and unspoilt place.

When I am older, I want to continue living in Erris, close to my family and friends, and I hope future generations will have the same opportunities to grow up, work and build a life here.

I ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development and to protect the peace, beauty and character of our home for the people who live here now and for future generations.

Thank you

Bridget O'Sullivan