

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin1

Date:24/7/2026

RE: Formal Planning Objection/Observation

-Planning Reference: PAX16.324387

-Proposed Development:13 wind turbines (180-metre tip height each), 110kv substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at Muingmore, Doolough and Tristia townlands Co. Mayo.

-Developer: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

-Objector: Caoimhe Howard, Cashel Lodge, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare/ Muingmore, Belmullet, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

I am writing on behalf of My daughter to formally object to the above planning application on the grounds of noise, visual, and amenity impact, and specifically on the grounds of serious medical and welfare risk to a member of my family who regularly stays at Muingmore, located approximately 800 metres from the proposed turbine site.

My daughter has complex additional needs. She is non-verbal, she does not walk and relies on a wheelchair/full-time support for mobility, and relies heavily on stable, predictable routines to remain settled and regulated. As a baby she suffered from infantile spasms, a severe form of epilepsy. She is also light sensitive and has a low tolerance for noise.

The proposed development raises specific, medically grounded concerns for her:

- Shadow flicker and light sensitivity: Rotating turbine blades can cast a rhythmic, flickering shadow over nearby properties at certain times of day and year. Flickering/flashing light is a recognised trigger for photosensitive seizures, and given her seizure history and light sensitivity, exposure to shadow flicker at or near the property represents a genuine risk to her safety, not merely a discomfort.

- Noise sensitivity: She has a low tolerance for noise and relies on a calm, predictable sensory environment to remain regulated. Continuous turbine operation noise, low-frequency sound, and construction noise would be a significant and ongoing source of sensory distress for her.

- Disruption to routine: Because she relies on consistency and routine to feel safe, prolonged construction activity (traffic, noise, changes to the surrounding environment) and the introduction of a permanent, continuous new noise and visual source into her environment would be highly disruptive to her wellbeing, with effects that are not easily managed or "adjusted to" in the way they might be for others.

- Mobility and access: As a full-time wheelchair user, she is also more exposed to any disruption to safe, level access routes or local roads during construction, and less able to simply avoid or relocate away from an affected area.

Planning Policy & Procedural Concerns

Mayo County Development Plan & Variation No. 2

I note that Mayo County Council formally adopted the Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo as Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022–2028 on 13 July 2026, during the observation period for this application. The applicant's own

EIAR (Chapter 10) admits that the site is located within an area deemed 'Unsuitable' for wind energy development under this strategy. This development is therefore in material contravention of the current operative County Development Plan. Under Section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, An Coimisiún Pleanála cannot grant permission for development in material contravention of a development plan without specific justification. No such Justification has been provided. The placement of 180-metre-high turbines within 800 metres of an established family home fundamentally conflicts with the protective spirit of this newly enacted variation which seeks to prevent the over industrialisation of sensitive rural and residential areas.

For the reasons set out above, I strongly object to this application in its current form. I would ask that the Planning Authority either refuse the application or, at minimum, require independent assessment of noise, shadow flicker, landscape/visual impact, and ecology specific to this property before any decision is made. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and to be kept informed of the progress of this application.

Yours Faithfully

Geraldine Howard

(On behalf of my daughter Caoimhe Howard)