



Erris Family & Community Support Centre CLG

9th July 2026

RE: Observation on Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development

Case Number: 324387

Submitted on behalf of Erris Family & Community Support Centre

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

This observation is submitted on behalf of Erris Family & Community Support Centre. We are a family support, community development organisation working to support and empower the Erris community through an early intervention and prevention approach. We are part of the National Family Resource Centre Programme, Ireland's largest community-based family support programme.

Our concerns regarding the proposed wind farm are not solely with the physical infrastructure but with the long-term impact this development could have on family life, community wellbeing, population retention, quality of life and the future sustainability of rural communities across Erris.

Impact on Families and Community Wellbeing

The proposed development includes 13 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 180 meters together with a battery energy storage facility, substation, access roads and associated infrastructure. The scale of this development is unprecedented, and local families will have to live with its impacts for decades.

We are concerned about the potential impact of turbine noise and shadow flicker on nearby residents. The planning application acknowledges that shadow flicker may affect residential properties and proposes mitigation measures. However, local families will still be expected to live in close proximity to industrial-scale infrastructure and the associated impacts on their daily lives.

In particular, we have concerns for children and families who are neurodivergent, with sensory processing needs and the severe impact both noise and shadow flicker would have on their wellbeing. Persons with autism and sensory processing differences already have significant challenges, and environmental and social stressors to overcome each and every day. The one place they can feel safe and at ease is in their home, this cannot and should not be allowed to be compromised in any way.

More broadly, many of the families accessing our services already experience difficulties and pressures associated with living in an area of disadvantage, with high levels of deprivation. Families are presenting to us weekly seeking support for issues such as trauma, school refusal, domestic abuse, access to services, addiction, loss/ bereavement, support for children with additional needs, anxiety and mental health, poverty, housing and loneliness and isolation.

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Company No: 737157

c/o Irish Wheelchair Association, Logmore, Belmullet, Co. Mayo F26VY42

Voluntary Board of Management: Rosaleen Lally, Margaret Heffron, Dervilia Cullotty, Paddy Joe Deane, Teresa Gaughan, Stephanie Gallagher, Catriona King, Brendan Deane, Majella Lavelle, Kevin Murray, Sandra Carey, Eoin O'Donoghue, Noel McLoughlin



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Additional environmental stressors such as noise, shadow flicker and the continual visual presence of turbines could add to struggles already facing the local population. The area, its landscape, serenity and nature benefits should be protected, and families should not have industrial scale developments imposed upon them that risk negatively affecting their wellbeing and quality of life.

Impact on Children and Future Generations

A thriving rural community depends upon young families choosing to remain in an area and new families choosing to move into it. We are concerned that the industrialisation of a significant area of the local landscape may discourage or prevent future residential development and reduce the potential of the area as a place to live, work and raise a family.

Erris has experienced ongoing population decline and loss of services over many years. Community organisations, schools, sporting clubs and voluntary groups work hard to sustain local communities. Collectively the community has secured new community supports and services in recent years, benefiting children and young people, families and those with additional needs. Developments which may make the area less habitable for current and future residents should be considered with the utmost scrutiny.

Many local residents consistently strive to develop our community and ensure it is a place where people can thrive, feel supported and valued; and so we must ask of what benefit this development is to our area and future generations. In a community that has such high levels of disadvantage, consistent lack of investment and infrastructure, as well as considerable social and familial issues, it is unreasonable that it be asked to bare the burden of National climate action targets.

Landscape and Scenic Amenity

The landscape of Erris is one of its greatest assets. The open boglands, coastal scenery, natural beauty and scenic views are central to the identity of the area. Residents, visitors and local families benefit daily from this un-spoilt environment.

The proposed turbines would be visible across a wide area and would fundamentally alter the character of the landscape. The visual impact of thirteen turbines of up to 180 meters in height, together with associated infrastructure, battery storage facilities, substations and access roads, would represent a significant and permanent change to the identity of the area.

Construction Phase Impacts

The construction phase raises significant concerns. The development will involve prolonged construction activity, heavy goods vehicles, abnormal loads, road works, excavation and associated disruption.

Families rely on local roads for access to schools, childcare facilities, health appointments, employment, sporting activities and community services. Increased traffic and disruption have the

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potential to affect everyday life and create additional safety concerns for families and school transport users.

The construction phase will also impact upon families' ability to have peaceful enjoyment of their home and community with noise disturbance, ground vibration and an increase in dust and poor air quality. The effects of construction on local families cannot be underestimated and pose significant and distressing environmental and social disturbances.

Public Participation

Community voices, consultation and listening to local people who call this area home must be a central aspect of local planning. Erris is more than a potential site for wind energy, it is home and it is a community. It is part of who we are as people; our sense of identity as human beings is rooted in place, and our sense of place determines our social and cultural fortitude.

Residents of this area hold invaluable local knowledge about landscape, biodiversity, heritage, and history. The people of this area are resilient and strengthened by mutual support and strong community bonds. They must be properly considered and engaged regarding anything that has the potential to change the face of their community.

Conclusion

As an organisation committed to supporting families and strengthening communities, we believe that the Board must consider not only the physical infrastructure proposed but also the cumulative effects on family life, community wellbeing, population retention, landscape character, public participation and the long-term future of families in a distinct and unique rural community such as Erris.

We respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála give careful consideration to these concerns and adequate scrutiny to the proposed development associated with **Case Number 324387**

Yours sincerely,

Leanne Barrett

Co-ordinator

Rosaleen Lally

Chairperson