

Evelyn Goonan
Geesala
Ballina
Co. Mayo

1 August 2026

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

Re: Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm
Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to make a formal observation on the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

I was born and raised in Doohoma. I later moved to the United Kingdom, where I lived for a number of years. I chose to return home to Erris, and I now live in Geesala village.

I came home because this is where I wanted to live. My family roots are here. I know the villages, roads, bogland and coastline, and I value the quiet life we have in this part of Mayo.

I strongly object to the proposed development.

The turbines would reach close to 180 metres in height. I cannot see how structures of that size could stand in this open landscape without changing it completely.

I travel through the area regularly. I see the open bog, the hills, the coastline and the long views as part of my normal day. I grew up with this landscape, and I chose to come back to it.

The turbines would affect what I see each time I drive through the area, visit family or travel between villages. Their size and movement would dominate views that have been familiar to me since childhood.

I would find it deeply upsetting to see the area changed in this way.

Erris already carries a large amount of wind energy development. I feel that this proposal would place another major burden on the area. It would change the landscape during the day and the night.

I am very concerned about the peatland within the proposed site.

Building the turbines would mean cutting into the bog for foundations, roads, crane areas, drainage and underground cables. Heavy machinery would cross and disturb the land for a long period.

I know how wet and sensitive the bogland in Erris can be. Once peat is dug up or drained, it cannot simply be returned to the way it was. Disturbance can change how water moves through the ground and increase the risk of peat sediment entering nearby drains and streams.

The Doolough Stream and other watercourses in the area connect with the wider Blacksod Bay catchment. This worries me.

Blacksod Bay has always been part of life in Erris. I know the bay from growing up in Doohoma and from living in Geesala. It supports fishing, wildlife, tourism and local livelihoods.

Any peat sediment, dirty water or construction runoff could move beyond the wind farm site. Water travels through drains and streams, and the effects could reach much further than the area being excavated.

I do not believe the application gives enough certainty that the bog, the streams and Blacksod Bay will remain protected.

I am also concerned about the protected peat habitats and wildlife in the area.

Construction would remove habitat and disturb the bog for years. Noise, machinery, excavation and drainage would affect birds, bats and other wildlife. The turbines would then remain as a risk long after construction ends.

The road network is another major concern for me because I use these roads as part of my daily life.

I travel on the roads around Geesala, Mount Jubilee, Muingmore and the surrounding villages for work, shopping, medical appointments and family visits.

These roads are narrow. Many have sharp bends, soft edges, deep drains and very little space for two vehicles to pass.

The construction of thirteen turbines would bring heavy trucks, abnormal loads and repeated vehicle movements through the area. I would have to share these roads with much larger vehicles than they were built to carry.

Temporary traffic lights would not make the roads wider. They would not remove the danger of large construction vehicles meeting local traffic on bends or narrow sections.

This would affect ordinary journeys and create added worry every time I used the road.

I am also concerned about the dark skies.

The darkness at night is one of the things I value about living in Erris. I can look out and see the stars clearly. At times, I can also see the Northern Lights.

The proposed turbines would need red aviation lights because of their height. Those lights would remain visible across a wide area every night.

I do not want permanent red lights changing the view from Geesala or the surrounding villages. I do not want to see them when I drive at night or look across the landscape from my home.

The project also includes a large battery storage compound, a substation, new roads, drainage works, cables, foundations and crane areas.

This means the development is much more than thirteen turbines.

All parts of the project would affect the area together. I would see the turbines during the day, the aviation lights at night and the effects of construction traffic on the roads I use.

I would also live with the worry about the bog, water quality, wildlife and Blacksod Bay.

I was born in Doohoma. I left Erris for a time, but I made the choice to return home and settle in Geesala.

I returned because I wanted to live close to my roots and in a place that still felt familiar to me. I do not want to see that place changed by turbines of this height and by a development of this scale.

This proposal would affect my daily journeys, the views I have known all my life, the roads I use, the darkness I value and the wider area I chose to return to.

For these reasons, I ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

Yours faithfully,

Evelyn Goonan