

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1,

D01 V902

Date: 31st July 2026

RE: Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

An Coimisiún Pleanála Case Reference: PAX16.324308

Development Name: Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm, County Mayo

Applicant: Muingmore Wind Farm Ltd.

Observer Details:

* Name: Fiona Mckeniry

* Current Address: Ballyfeeney Strokestown, Co. Roscommon F42NN82

* Locus Standi: Native of Doolough, County Mayo, and frequent returning visitor.

A Chara,

I am writing to lodge a formal observation objecting to the strategic infrastructure development application for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm (Case Reference: PAX16.324308). Please find enclosed the mandatory planning fee of €50.

My objection is based on the irreversible degradation of the natural environment, the loss of a rare landscape of profound peace, and distinct deficiencies within the applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

1. Personal Connection to Doolough and Locus Standi

I grew up in the townland of Doolough (Dumha Locha). Although my life and work have since taken me away from living there full-time, my roots, my identity, and my family history remain firmly anchored in this landscape. I return to Doolough frequently to visit, walk the land, and reconnect.

To step away from the relentless hustle and bustle of normal daily responsibilities, Doolough is my irreplaceable sanctuary. It offers a rare, profound quietness and an untouched natural beauty that is impossible to find anywhere else. The open horizons, the deep evening silence, and the raw, unindustrialised beauty of Erris are vital to my well-being and heritage. The proposed 35-year industrialisation of this landscape will permanently destroy the very qualities that draw its diaspora home.

2. Loss of Rural Tranquility, Peace, and Landscape Character

The introduction of 13 massive wind turbines standing 180 metres in height represents an inappropriate, aggressive industrialisation of a uniquely open, low-lying rural landscape.

* Visual Intrusion: Turbines of this unprecedented scale will violently dominate the skyline, completely altering the visual character of Doolough, Gweesalia, Bangor Erris, and Belmullet. The vast, uninterrupted views that define this region will be replaced by spinning industrial structures.

* Destruction of Solitude: The peace of Doolough is defined by its lack of artificial intrusion. The introduction of heavy blade rotation, constant aerodynamic hum, and mandatory flashing night-time aviation lighting will obliterate the dark skies and deep silence that make this area a sanctuary. It will transform a peaceful rural retreat into an active, imposing power plant.

3. Serious Environmental Impacts on the Blanket Bog and Wildlife

The development site is situated on highly sensitive Atlantic blanket bog, an increasingly rare and internationally protected habitat type.

* Hydrological Risks: The immense physical excavation, road construction, and deep concrete pouring required for 13 turbines and a 110kV substation will disrupt the delicate hydrological balance of the peatland. I am deeply concerned about the long-term drainage impacts, peat stability risks, and potential runoff siltation into local water courses that feed into the nearby Mullet/Blacksod Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC Code: 000470).

* Threat to Local Ecology: This undisturbed environment supports vulnerable wildlife. The construction and long-term operation of this facility pose a direct threat to local otter populations and active avian species, including the regional breeding pairs of Red-listed Kestrels who rely entirely on the quietude of these specific townlands for survival.

4. Technical Deficiencies in the Developer's EIAR

As highlighted by local community evaluations, the developer's EIAR contains unacceptable generalizations that do not reflect the physical reality of our community:

* Flawed Shadow Flicker Modelling: The EIAR's shadow flicker assessment reportedly applies completely identical, generic window dimensions to model the impacts across more than 90 local residential homes, rather than executing tailored, real-world physical surveys.

* Impact on Residential Amenity: By relying on desktop assumptions rather than individual property realities, the developer has failed to accurately guarantee the protection of residential amenity for my neighbors, relatives, and the homes left behind in Doolough.

5. Conclusion

Developing a massive, heavy-industrial wind farm across Muingmore, Doolough, Tristia, Moneynierin, and Bangor is entirely incompatible with the environmental vulnerability and unique spiritual character of this region.

Progress should not come at the absolute cost of our remaining natural sanctuaries. For a generation of returning natives and local residents, the loss of this pristine environment will be absolute and irreversible.

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála protects the heritage, ecology, and peaceful sanctuary of the Erris region by refusing planning permission for this development.

Is mise le meas,

Fiona Mckeniry.
