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**Observation on the Proposed Muingmore and Doolough Wind Farm Development
Reference PAX16.324387.**

I wish to make a formal submission objecting to the proposed wind farm development at Muingmore and Doolough, County Mayo.

I fully support Ireland's transition towards renewable energy and recognise the importance of developing sustainable energy infrastructure. However, I do not believe this proposal is suitable for the location chosen, and I respectfully ask that the application be refused for the following reasons.

1. Conflict with the Statutory County Development Plan

On 13 July 2026, Mayo County Council formally adopted the Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo as Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022–2028. This variation now forms part of the operative County Development Plan and must be considered in determining this application.

The applicant's own Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Chapter 10) acknowledges that the proposed development site is located within an area classified as "**Unsuitable**" for wind energy development under the adopted strategy. As a result, the proposal represents a material contravention of the current Development Plan.

Under Section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, permission should only be granted for a development that materially contravenes the Development Plan where clear statutory grounds exist. In my opinion, no adequate justification has been provided to warrant such a departure from adopted planning policy.

2. Inconsistent with the Objectives of the Development Plan

While renewable energy is an important national objective, it must be delivered in locations that respect local communities and the environment.

Although the nearest houses are reported to be approximately 720 metres from the proposed turbines, the development would still have a major visual presence and would permanently change the landscape surrounding local homes. The peaceful rural character of this area is one of its defining qualities, and it should be protected.

The County Development Plan sets out a vision of creating a sustainable county that supports the wellbeing of its residents while maintaining a high-quality natural environment. In my view, this proposal does not achieve that balance and is therefore inconsistent with the overall objectives of the Plan.

3. Impact on Landscape Character

This part of County Mayo is recognised for its scenic beauty and unspoilt landscape. The construction of turbines of the proposed height would introduce a significant industrial feature into a rural setting and permanently alter the visual character of the area.

The landscape is an important asset for local residents and visitors alike, and I believe this development would cause unacceptable harm to that asset.

4. Residential Amenity and Health

I remain concerned about the potential effects of large-scale wind turbines on those living nearby. Even where statutory setback distances are met, concerns remain regarding the cumulative effects of turbine operation on the quality of life and wellbeing of residents.

These concerns should be carefully considered when assessing the suitability of this location.

5. Noise and Visual Effects

The scale and height of the proposed turbines mean they would become dominant features in the surrounding landscape and would be visible over a considerable distance.

In addition to the visual intrusion, I am concerned about operational noise and the long-term impact this may have on nearby households and the enjoyment of their homes.

6. Impact on Property Values

I believe the construction of an industrial-scale wind farm in close proximity to residential properties could have a negative effect on property values and make homes in the area less attractive to potential purchasers.

7. Effects on Wildlife and Biodiversity

The proposed development also raises concerns regarding its impact on local wildlife, habitats and protected species. Construction activity and the operation of the turbines have the potential to disturb sensitive habitats and increase risks to birds, bats and other wildlife, resulting in long-term impacts on biodiversity.

Conclusion

For all of the reasons outlined above, I believe this proposal is contrary to the current statutory planning framework for County Mayo.

The applicant has acknowledged within its own Environmental Impact Assessment Report that the site lies within an area identified as **"Unsuitable"** for wind energy development under the adopted Renewable Energy Strategy.

The proposal also conflicts with the wider aims of the County Development Plan, which seek to protect communities, landscapes and environmental quality while supporting sustainable development in appropriate locations.

I therefore respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses planning permission for the proposed Muingmore and Doolough Wind Farm.

Yours faithfully,

Francis and Joan Lindsay