

Tristia,
Bangor Erris,
Ballina,
Co Mayo.
F26 F5TF

I am writing to formally object to the proposed wind farm development at Muingmore and Doolough, Co. Mayo. Reference PAX16.324387.

While I acknowledge the importance of renewable energy and Ireland's transition to a low-carbon future, I believe this proposal is fundamentally inappropriate in this location.

My reasons are outlined below.

1. Material Contravention of the County Development Plan

I wish to draw attention to the fact that Mayo County Council adopted the **Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo as Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022–2028** on 13 July 2026. As this variation has now been formally adopted, it forms part of the current statutory County Development Plan.

The applicant's own **Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Chapter 10**, acknowledges that the proposed development site is located within an area designated as "**Unsuitable**" for wind energy development under this strategy. This means the proposal is in material contravention of the operative County Development Plan.

Under **Section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act**, An Coimisiún Pleanála may only grant permission for a development that materially contravenes a development plan where specific statutory justification is provided. To date, no such justification has been demonstrated by the applicant.

2. Conflict with the Vision and Objectives of the County Development Plan

The basis of my objection is that this proposed development is contrary to the spirit and objectives of the County Development Plan. Whilst I recognise the need for sustainable green energy, this particular proposal would have an unacceptable impact on the local environment, residents and natural habitat.

Although the nearest dwellings are understood to be beyond the statutory minimum setback distance of 500 metres, the nearest homes are approximately 720 metres from the proposed turbines. At this distance, the development would still create a significant visual impact on surrounding properties and would permanently alter the natural landscape, tranquillity and character of an area in which many people chose to live because of its outstanding beauty.

The **Vision of County Mayo**, as set out in **Section 2.2 of Chapter 2 – Core and Settlement Strategy** of the County Development Plan, states:

"To create a sustainable and competitive county that supports the health and well-being of the people of Mayo, providing an attractive destination, as a place in which to live, work, invest, do business and visit, offering high quality employment and educational opportunities within strong and vibrant sustainable communities, whilst ensuring a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient county that supports high environmental quality."

In my view, this proposal fails to achieve that balance. Renewable energy should not come at the expense of the health and wellbeing of residents, the protection of our natural environment or the high environmental quality that the County Development Plan seeks to protect.

3. Natural Beauty and Landscape

Before I received planning permission to build our family home, Mayo County Council's Planning Authority described this area as one of significant natural beauty. The installation of turbines of this scale would permanently alter the landscape and destroy the unique character and scenic quality of the area.

4. Health Concerns

There are ongoing concerns regarding the potential health impacts associated with large wind turbines located in close proximity to residential properties. My home, along with many others, would be directly affected by this development.

5. Noise and Visual Impact

The turbines would dominate the surrounding landscape and be visible from many miles away. Their size and scale would have a significant adverse visual impact and would diminish the peaceful and rural character of the area. There are also concerns regarding operational noise and its impact on nearby residents.

6. Impact on Property Values

Should this development proceed, I believe it would significantly reduce the value of my property and many others in the locality. It would also make homes considerably more difficult to sell due to their proximity to a large industrial-scale wind farm.

7. Impact on Wildlife

The construction and operation of the proposed wind farm would have a considerable impact on local wildlife and habitats. Construction activity would disturb the surrounding environment, while turbine operation poses risks to birds, bats and other protected species. This has the potential to cause long-term harm to the area's biodiversity.

Conclusion

In addition to the serious environmental, residential and community concerns outlined above, I respectfully submit that this proposal is fundamentally inconsistent with the current statutory planning policy for County Mayo.

The applicant's own Environmental Impact Assessment Report confirms that the site lies within an area designated as **"Unsuitable"** for wind energy development under the adopted Renewable Energy Strategy. Furthermore, the proposal conflicts with the wider vision and objectives of the County Development Plan, which seek to protect the health and wellbeing of communities while maintaining Mayo's high environmental quality.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses permission for this development.

Yours faithfully,

Gerry & Ann Lindsay