

**SUBMISSION / OBJECTION TO PROPOSED
MUNINGMORE WIND FARM**

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

Holly McAndrew & Anthony Coyle,
Geesala,
Ballina,
Co Mayo.

To whom it may concern,

We wish to make a formal objection to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm and respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development. This is not an objection to renewable energy in principle. It is an objection to the scale and location of this particular development and the significant impact it would have on our future family home, our family and the surrounding environment.

Our family is currently undertaking a significant renovation of a previously derelict home in Doolough, (Eircode F26V803). The renovation is not yet complete, but we hope to have the property finished and move into it as our family home before Christmas. We have invested significant time, money and personal effort into restoring this property and creating a home where we can raise our young baby. As local people who grew up in the area and now work locally and volunteer in our community, we are delighted to be able to live in this beautiful area and bring an old home back to life.

The proposed turbines would be directly behind our home. This means that the development would not be a distant or occasional feature of the landscape for us. Thirteen turbines of approximately 180 metres in height, together with associated roads, electrical infrastructure, construction works and a battery storage facility, would fundamentally alter the environment immediately surrounding our home as well as potentially devaluing a property we have just spent our life savings on.

We also have horses and livestock living at the property, and we have serious concerns about the potential impact that a development of this scale may have on their welfare and on our ability to properly manage and care for them. Our animals are accustomed to the quiet rural environment that currently exists at Doolough, and the introduction of industrial-scale turbines, along with the associated construction activity, heavy machinery, increased traffic, noise, vibration and ongoing operational activity, represents a significant change to their environment. As responsible livestock owners, we are concerned about the potential for stress and disturbance to our animals, particularly during the construction phase and from the long-term presence of such large structures in such close proximity to their grazing areas. Our land is not separate from our home; it is an important part of our family life and livelihood, and any impact on our livestock directly affects our ability to enjoy and manage our property.

We are particularly concerned about the impact on our residential amenity, including:

- The visual dominance of the turbines;
- Operational and low-frequency noise.
- Shadow flicker.
- Construction noise, dust and vibration.
- Significant HGV and construction traffic.
- Night-time lighting.
- The loss of the peace and tranquillity of our rural home.

We have chosen to restore a derelict property and make it our permanent family home in Doolough. It is extremely concerning that such a substantial industrial development could now be placed directly behind it. We ask that our property is considered as a future family home and not simply as another point on a map

The proposed turbines would be approximately 180 metres high, which is entirely disproportionate to the existing scale and character of this rural coastal landscape. The development would introduce 13 industrial-scale structures together with extensive associated infrastructure into an area valued for its open landscape, peatlands, coastline, rural character and sense of tranquillity. We are particularly concerned that Mayo County Council requested that the landscape and visual assessment consider a 30km study area, including sensitive tourism receptors and Wild Nephin National Park, while the applicant retained a 20km study area. The Commission should independently consider whether a 20km assessment is sufficient for turbines of this exceptional scale.

The applicant's own documentation identifies the Doolough Stream as having Poor Water Framework Directive status and being classified as “At Risk.” The development also has hydrological connections to the Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC and Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA. Furthermore, Tristia Bog NHA is directly adjacent to the development site, with the applicant acknowledging potential groundwater connectivity. Given the extent of proposed roads, foundations, hardstands, drainage and earthworks, we are concerned about the potential for sedimentation, changes to peat hydrology, water pollution and impacts on downstream protected habitats.

The construction phase would represent a major intervention in a rural area. The application anticipates significant HGV movements, abnormal-load deliveries, road works and extensive construction activity. For residents living immediately beside the proposed development, this could mean prolonged disruption from heavy vehicles, noise, dust, vibration and construction activity. This is particularly concerning for our family as we are preparing to move into the property with our young baby.

The proposal also includes a substantial battery energy storage system and electrical infrastructure. The Commission should be satisfied that appropriate arrangements exist for fire safety, emergency response, access, containment and protection of surrounding peatland and watercourses, particularly given the rural location.

We do recognise Ireland's need for renewable energy and the importance of addressing climate change. However, renewable energy development must still be properly located and appropriately scaled.

The question is not simply whether wind energy is required. It is whether 13 turbines approximately 180 metres high, together with extensive associated infrastructure, are appropriate in this particular location.

In our view, the combination of the following factors makes this proposal inappropriate;

- The direct impact on our future family home and the health and well-being of our child
- The exceptional height and visual dominance of the turbines
- The sensitivity of the surrounding landscape
- Peatland and water-quality concerns
- Proximity and hydrological connections to protected sites
- The impact on livestock and their environment
- Construction and traffic impacts
- Battery and electrical infrastructure.

In conclusion, the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm would permanently change the environment immediately surrounding our home and would have a significant impact on our family's future residential amenity. We have taken a derelict property and are investing heavily in restoring it as a home for our family. We hope to move into it before Christmas and raise our young baby there. We wish for it to remain the safe, peaceful and residential area that it has always been. We want our child to grow up in a home free from light pollution, dangerous traffic outside and the possibility of shadow flicker and low frequency operational noise. Our little girl should have the right to grow up in the same peaceful, rural area as we have. We respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. I request that this submission and the concerns outlined above be fully considered in determining Case Reference PAX16.324387.

Yours faithfully,

Holly McAndrew and Anthony Coyle.