

Muingmore Wind Farm

Case Ref: PAX16.324387

Name: Irene Keegan

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7th August 2026; 13:30pm

An Coimisiun Pleanala,

64 Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Re: Observation on Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development (Case Ref: PAX16.324387)

A Chara,

My name is Irene Keegan. I grew up in Doohoma, Co Mayo not far from where the proposed wind farm is planned for development. I currently live in Muingtreana with my husband and will be directly impacted by the proposed farm as I live directly across from where the planned developmental site will be between Geesala and Mount jubilee and from the front of my house will be directly facing the planned windfarm if it goes ahead. I am writing to object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm on a number of levels.

I firstly object from a personal health perspective. I live with a serious physical health illness, and I have spoken to many individuals who live near current windfarms and what has come across is the significant impact such windfarms can have on an individual's physical and mental health specifically due to the noise problem caused by the windmills and by the shadow flicker. I also have to travel frequently to attend medical appointments, and I have heard reports of the significant delays caused to traffic during the development phase which can go on for some time. Turbines of the height proposed for this site, up to 180metres to blade tip, are a different order of scale to anything currently in this landscape. This site experiences strong, unbroken Atlantic wind for much of the year, and I am seriously concerned about the noise these turbines would generate in those conditions close to my home for the guaranteed 35-year lifespan of the project.

My property will look directly onto the proposed site. A development of 13 turbines at this height would permanently and irreversibly change the character of this landscape, which is currently

open and undeveloped and personally one of the most untainted, unspoilt natural beauty spots in the world.

I am unsure how close my home will fall to the shadow flicker, but I am concerned that a shadow flicker of this kind can seriously impact people's health and quality of life over months and years, and I am asking the board to look carefully at what this would mean for homes in this position, particularly given my own ongoing health difficulties.

This area supports wildlife that would be put at serious risk by a development of this scale. This includes species such as the kestrel, barn owl, heron, cuckoo, and corncrake, as well as otters and native lizards, and it lies on a route used by migrating swans. Construction on deep peatland of this kind risks lasting and permanent damage to habitats that cannot be replaced.

Blacksod Bay is a protected site, home to rare maerl beds, seals, otters, and internationally significant number of wintering birds. The proposed site sits on peatland that drains directly towards the bay, and construction on this scale carries a real risk of silt and runoff reaching that water, damaging habitats that would not recover within any timeframe that matters to the species living there now.

A development of this scale this close to residential properties is likely to have a significant negative effect on property values in the area, at real cost to families who have invested their lives there.

This is a designated tourism area. The Wild Mayo Destination and Experience Development Plan, backed by Failte Ireland and Mayo County Council, depends on this landscape remaining wild and undeveloped. Thirteen turbines at up to 180 metres in height, visible for miles, would undermine the very qualities that strategy is built around, and put at risk the businesses and livelihoods that depend on tourism here.

There are thousands of acres of land already identified and designated for renewable energy development elsewhere in the country, without the same level of harm to blanket bog, protected habitats and established communities. Where a less damaging alternative exists, I believe the Board is entitled to ask why this particular site has been chosen.

Mayo County Council's own Renewable Energy Strategy, adopted only last week, identifies peatlands such as this as unsuitable for wind energy development, because of the damage that construction on deep, waterlogged bog can do to carbon storage, water quality and the surrounding environment. This is the council's own considered judgement, reached independently of this application, and it is difficult to see how this development can be reconciled with it.

I want to be clear that I am not against renewable energy, and I understand the importance of it for the country. But this particular site is not the right place for a project of this scale.

I am extremely proud of my home, my community and the area I live in. For the reasons set out above I respectfully request An Coimisiun Pleanala refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Keegan

7th August 2026.