

Julie Lynch

Doolough

Geesla

Co. Mayo

7th August 2026

The Secretary,

An Coimisiun Pleanala

64, Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1

Reference: PAX16. 324387

RE: Objection to the Proposed Windfarm in Muinghmore / Doolough

Dear Sir / Madam

Please accept this letter as a formal planning observation and strong objection to the above-referenced planning application for an industrial wind farm development at Muinghmore and Doolough, County Mayo.

As a local resident, I respectfully request that the Planning Authority give full consideration to the environmental, technical and planning concerns outlined below and refuse planning permission for the proposed development.

I am concerned that the scale of the proposed development, comprising exceptionally large wind turbines and associated infrastructure, represents a substantial industrial intervention in a sensitive rural landscape. The proposed development is incompatible with the character of the area, nearby homes, and the fragile peatland environment of the Erris region.

The visual impact of the proposed turbines would significantly alter the natural landscape of North Mayo and dominate the existing rural skyline. The turbines would be highly visible

from local homes, public roads, coastal areas and key viewpoints along the Wild Atlantic Way.

In addition, the mandatory aviation warning lights on turbine structures would introduce permanent light pollution into an area renowned for its dark skies and natural environment.

I am concerned that the operation of the turbines may generate low-frequency noise, amplitude modulation and repetitive blade movement noise that could adversely affect nearby residents. Such impacts may reduce residential amenity and quality of life, particularly during periods of low background noise.

The movement of turbine blades between the sun and nearby dwellings may also create shadow flicker, causing disturbance to residents. Existing national guidelines do not eliminate the possibility of shadow flicker impacts on all affected properties.

As a recent purchaser of a home in the area and now a full-time resident, I have significant concerns regarding the potential impact of this development on my enjoyment of my property and on the value of homes throughout the locality.

The proposed development is located within an environmentally sensitive area that supports a range of protected species and habitats. Species including the Hen Harrier, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Curlew and various bat species may be adversely affected through habitat loss, disturbance and potential collision risks.

The construction of access roads, turbine bases and cable trenches would result in habitat fragmentation and may negatively affect important nesting, feeding and breeding areas for wildlife.

The proposed site contains peatland habitats that act as valuable carbon stores. Excavation of peat for turbine foundations, road construction and associated infrastructure has the potential to release stored carbon into the atmosphere, reducing the overall environmental benefit of the project.

There are also concerns that drainage and earthworks may permanently alter hydrological conditions, leading to peat degradation and the loss of peat-forming vegetation.

Furthermore, significant excavation works on peat soils may increase the risk of peat instability and potential peat slides, with potentially serious environmental consequences.

The extensive excavation and construction works associated with the development may result in increased sediment entering nearby streams and rivers, which could affect water quality and damage habitats supporting fish populations and freshwater pearl mussels.

There is also a risk that fuels, hydraulic oils, concrete washings and other construction-related materials could enter local watercourses, impacting fisheries, wildlife and drinking water supplies.

The transport of oversized turbine components would require substantial use of local roads and may necessitate road widening and other modifications along narrow rural routes.

In addition, the large volume of heavy goods vehicles required during construction could cause significant wear and structural damage to local roads and bridges. Many roads in the Doolough area were not designed to accommodate this level of heavy industrial traffic.

The Erris region already hosts a significant amount of wind energy infrastructure. Approval of this proposal would contribute to further industrialisation of the landscape and increase cumulative visual and environmental impacts.

The local economy depends heavily on tourism, outdoor recreation, angling and the area's renowned natural scenery. The Wild Atlantic Way is promoted on the basis of its unspoilt landscapes, tranquillity and environmental quality. The introduction of a large-scale industrial wind farm in this location has the potential to undermine these valuable tourism assets.

Erris and North Mayo remain among the few areas of Ireland that retain a largely unspoilt natural landscape. In my view, this proposal conflicts with national and local efforts to promote sustainable tourism and protect the unique environmental character of the region.

In conclusion, I believe that the proposed wind farm at Muinghmore and Doolough represents an inappropriate industrial-scale development within an environmentally sensitive and visually significant landscape.

I am concerned that the proposal would have adverse impacts on residential amenity, landscape character, peatland habitats, water quality, biodiversity, local infrastructure, tourism and property values. Taken together, these concerns outweigh the potential benefits of the development.

I respectfully request that the Planning Authority refuse planning permission for this application in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission and keep me informed of any future decisions or notifications relating to this planning application.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Lynch