

Kelly Sweeney
Tristia
Bangor Erris
Ballina
Co Mayo
F26 NYT2

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

I wish to submit my objection to the proposed wind farm development at Muingmore and Doolough, County Mayo.

I appreciate the need to increase Ireland's renewable energy capacity and I support the move towards a cleaner, more sustainable future. However, I do not believe this is an appropriate location for a development of this scale, and I respectfully ask that planning permission be refused.

1. Conflict with the County Development Plan

On 13 July 2026, Mayo County Council adopted the Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo as Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022–2028. This strategy now forms part of the statutory Development Plan and should carry significant weight in determining this application.

The applicant's own Environmental Impact Assessment Report confirms that the proposed site lies within an area classified as "Unsuitable" for wind energy development under the adopted strategy. In my view, this represents a clear material contravention of the current Development Plan.

Section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act only allows permission to be granted in such circumstances where there are exceptional planning grounds to justify departing from the Development Plan. I do not believe that such justification has been demonstrated.

2. Conflict with the Vision of the Development Plan

The County Development Plan aims to achieve a balance between sustainable development, environmental protection and the wellbeing of local communities.

Although the proposed turbines may comply with minimum separation distances, the nearest homes are still approximately 720 metres away. At that distance, the turbines would remain a dominant visual feature and would fundamentally change the character of this quiet rural landscape.

I believe this proposal conflicts with the vision of maintaining a high-quality environment while supporting thriving rural communities.

3. Damage to the Landscape

This area is recognised for its exceptional natural beauty. It is defined by open landscapes, tranquillity and unspoilt scenery.

The introduction of turbines of this scale would permanently industrialise the landscape and remove many of the qualities that make this part of Mayo such a special place to live and visit.

4. Residential Amenity and Health

Like many local residents, I remain concerned about the potential effects that large wind turbines may have on people living nearby.

Even where regulatory standards are met, issues such as shadow flicker, constant turbine movement, noise and the overall change to the living environment can significantly affect residents' enjoyment of their homes and quality of life.

5. Noise and Visual Impact

The proposed turbines would dominate views across the area and would be visible over a wide distance.

The peaceful rural setting that currently exists would be replaced by a large industrial development, with ongoing concerns regarding operational noise and visual intrusion for nearby residents.

6. Impact on Property

I am also concerned that the development would negatively affect the value and desirability of homes in the locality.

Many families have invested heavily in building or improving their homes here because of the area's rural setting and natural beauty. That investment deserves protection.

7. Wildlife and Biodiversity

Construction and operation of the proposed wind farm have the potential to disturb local habitats and wildlife.

The surrounding area supports birds, bats and other species that form an important part of the local environment. Any development should avoid causing unnecessary harm to biodiversity, particularly in such a sensitive landscape.

Conclusion

This objection is not made lightly.

My family made the decision to return home to County Mayo because we wanted to build our future here. We invested our savings into building what we hope will be our forever home in this beautiful part of the county. We are now raising our four-year-old child here, surrounded by the peace, scenery and natural environment that make this place so special.

We chose this location because of its outstanding landscape, its sense of tranquillity and the quality of life it offers our family. The prospect of living beside an industrial-scale wind farm was never something we could have anticipated.

It is deeply upsetting to think that the environment we carefully chose for our child could be permanently altered in this way.

In addition to the personal impact on my family, I believe 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 is located within an area designated as "Unsuitable" for wind energy development under the adopted Renewable Energy Strategy. I believe the proposal also conflicts with the wider objectives of the County Development Plan, which seek to protect communities,

landscapes and environmental quality while supporting sustainable development in appropriate locations.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for the proposed Muingmore and Doolough Wind Farm.

Yours faithfully,

Kelly Sweeney