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Mount Jubilee
Bangor Erris
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Co. Mayo

1 August 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm
Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to make a formal observation on the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

I am from Mount Jubilee. I now live and work in the United Kingdom, where I own a construction business and work as a qualified quantity surveyor. My family still lives in Mount Jubilee, and I return several times each year. I may live away, but Mount Jubilee is still home to me.

I strongly object to this application.

From my work in construction, I understand what a project of this size involves. Thirteen turbines close to 180 metres high would require major excavation, large foundations, crane areas, new access roads, drainage systems, underground cables, temporary compounds, a substation, a battery storage compound and a grid connection to Bellacorick. This is a major construction project in a small rural area. It would change Mount Jubilee and Muingmore during construction and for decades afterwards.

The scale of the proposed works is completely out of keeping with the village. Mount Jubilee is quiet. Families live there, and many of us who moved away return throughout the year to visit family and spend time at home. The peace, the views and the open landscape are a large part of why we return. Turbines of this height would dominate the area. Their movement would be visible during the day, and aviation lights would change the landscape at night.

The local roads cannot handle the traffic required for this project. I know these roads well. They are narrow, with many bends, soft edges and very little passing space. In many sections, two cars cannot meet safely. Heavy construction vehicles would use the same roads as families, school buses and farm vehicles.

Traffic lights may control vehicles at certain points, but they will not make the roads wider. They will not strengthen the road base or remove the danger of heavy vehicles meeting local traffic on narrow sections. The grid connection to Bellacorick would bring further excavation, road openings, traffic controls and delays. These works would affect daily journeys well beyond the main site.

The battery energy storage system adds another large industrial compound to the proposal. It would contain 120 battery containers, 15 inverter containers, electrical equipment, fencing, lighting and internal access areas. I do not believe it is right to place infrastructure of this scale close to families while important details remain unclear.

The final design should have been fully settled before the application was submitted. Families should know exactly what will be built, how it will operate and what will happen if a fire or other emergency occurs. They should not have to accept a large battery compound on the basis that important details will be dealt with later.

The peatland also creates major problems. The application records Lowland Blanket Bog, Fossitt Code PB3, and Cutover Bog, Fossitt Code PB4, within the site. The applicant's technical habitat report classifies all areas of lowland blanket bog on the site, including degraded areas, as Annex I Habitat Code 7130, Blanket Bogs. The active form of this habitat is classed as a priority habitat.

Peat cannot simply be dug out, stored and returned to its original condition. Excavation and drainage change how water moves through the ground. The works could increase the risk of erosion, peat movement and sediment entering drains and streams.

Tristia Bog Natural Heritage Area, Site Code 001566, lies close to the proposed development. It is designated for its peatlands. The presence of this protected bog adds to the wider importance of the peatland landscape around Muingmore and Mount Jubilee. The project should not be assessed as though the site exists separately from the surrounding bog.

The Doolough Stream and connected drainage lead towards the Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation, Site Code 000470, and the Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven Special Protection Area, Site Code 004037. Any polluted runoff or peat sediment could travel beyond the site and enter this connected water system.

Blacksod Bay supports fishing, wildlife, tourism and local livelihoods. The application should have shown clearly that the works would not damage the Doolough Stream, connected watercourses, the SAC or the SPA. General statements about managing runoff do not remove the risk created by building across peatland.

The site also supports birds, bats and other wildlife. Construction would remove habitat and disturb feeding and movement areas. Heavy machinery and road works would add

to that disturbance. Once the turbines begin operating, the blades would create a further risk to birds and bats. These effects must be considered alongside the other wind farms and energy developments already present across Erris.

Shadow flicker raises a simple issue of fairness. The developer's own assessment shows that a number of homes could experience levels above the stated limits before mitigation. Is it fair to subject families to this in their own homes and then depend on future shutdown systems to control it?

Homes should have guided the position of the turbines from the start. Families should not have to keep records, report incidents or wait to see whether mitigation works after the turbines are built. The design should have protected nearby homes before the application was submitted.

Noise would also change daily life for families living near the site. Mount Jubilee is a quiet village. Turbine noise may become far more noticeable when background sound is low. The assessment must deal properly with changing wind direction, amplitude modulation, tonal noise and low-frequency sound. Average figures do not show what a family may experience inside a home during the day or at night.

The application also raises serious archaeological issues. The EIAR identifies crannog MA025-004 within the main wind farm site, about 230 metres northeast of proposed Turbine 11. It also records two further crannogs, MA025-003 and MA025-005, within 1 kilometre of the site.

Construction would involve excavation and new roads across a landscape with known archaeological importance. The setting of these sites matters as much as the ground around them. Turbines close to 180 metres high would change that setting permanently. The application also states that the crannog within the site could not be inspected in person because it was located within dense forestry. That limitation should carry weight when assessing whether the archaeological survey was complete.

Tourism brings real value to Erris. Visitors come for the coastline, the quiet roads, the open bogland, the wildlife, the dark skies and the Wild Atlantic Way. Local hotels, cafés, shops and other small businesses depend on that trade. A landscape filled with turbines, aviation lights and a battery compound would change the experience that brings visitors here.

The full project must be judged as one development. It includes the turbines, roads, foundations, drainage, cables, substation, battery storage compound and grid connection to Bellacorick. Each part adds pressure to the same roads, peatland, water system, landscape and communities.

Erris already carries a large amount of wind energy and electrical infrastructure. This proposal would add another major project and increase the cumulative impact on homes, roads, wildlife, tourism and the wider landscape.

I have spent my working life in construction. I understand the disruption caused by excavation, heavy plant, road works, traffic controls and the movement of materials. I also understand that work on this scale cannot be kept within a line on a map.

The impact would reach Mount Jubilee, Muingmore, the Doolough Stream, Blacksod Bay, the road network and the wider Erris area.

For these reasons, I ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Munnelly