

Kyle Holmes & Clara Holmes  
23 Achill View  
Belmullet  
Co. Mayo  
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To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

**Re: Formal Objection to Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development**  
**Planning Reference: PAX16.324387**

To whom it may concern,

I wish to formally lodge an objection to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development under planning reference PAX16.324387.

My wife and I are currently at the planning application stage for our future family home at Doolough, Geesala, Co. Mayo, at the following location: 54.135873, -9.904693. The relevant Mayo County Council planning application reference is 2660454.

From discussions with RWE representatives at the public information meeting held in the Broadhaven Bay Hotel, we understand that the nearest proposed turbine would be approximately 750 metres from the rear of our proposed dwelling.

We specifically selected this location because of its outstanding scenic beauty, peaceful rural setting, open landscape and unspoiled natural environment. In our view, the proposed wind farm would result in an unacceptable industrialisation of this landscape and would significantly affect the residential amenity, visual character and environmental quality of the area.

**1. Personal Circumstances and Connection to the Area**

My wife grew up in Doolough, F26 E9W7, just a short distance from our proposed home. This is a place of deep personal significance to her and her family, and it is the very reason we chose to build our future family home there. Her family home is located close to the proposed wind farm development, and our own proposed dwelling is expected to be approximately 750 metres from the nearest turbine.

We made the decision to invest in this location because of its exceptional natural beauty, peaceful surroundings and the opportunity to raise our family in a quiet rural environment. The proposed development now places that lifelong investment and aspiration in jeopardy.

Since becoming aware of the proposal, we have spoken directly with several families living in close proximity to wind farms of a similar scale elsewhere in Ireland. They described significant and ongoing impacts on their quality of life, including concerns relating to noise, shadow flicker, the

overwhelming visual presence of turbines, and the loss of peace and tranquillity that originally drew them to their homes. These conversations have reinforced our concerns and stand in contrast to the reassurances provided during the public consultation meeting held by RWE at the Broadhaven Bay Hotel.

As a result, we no longer feel confident that our proposed home would provide the safe, peaceful and enjoyable family environment that we had envisaged. It is deeply upsetting that the prospect of establishing our permanent home in the place that means so much to our family has been overshadowed by the proposed introduction of large-scale industrial wind turbines in such close proximity.

I respectfully submit that An Coimisiún Pleanála should give significant weight to the impact this development would have on the residential amenity, wellbeing and future of families who have chosen to make this unique rural landscape their permanent home.

## **2. Summary of Grounds of Objection**

My objection is based on the following principal grounds:

- Significant impact on residential amenity
- Visual and landscape impact
- Impact on tourism and established local business
- Environmental concerns
- Concerns regarding the proposed 110kV grid connection infrastructure
- Concerns regarding the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
- Inappropriate scale and location

## **3. Significant Impact on Residential Amenity**

The proximity of a large industrial-scale wind turbine development to our proposed future family home gives rise to serious concerns regarding residential amenity. At an approximate distance of 750 metres, the proposed turbines would create a highly dominant visual presence within the surrounding landscape and would fundamentally alter the character and enjoyment of our property.

The development raises substantial concerns in relation to:

- Visual dominance and overbearing scale
- Noise disturbance
- Shadow flicker effects
- Night-time aviation lighting
- Loss of rural tranquillity
- Long-term impact on quality of life and enjoyment of our home

We are deeply concerned that the scale and proximity of the proposed turbines are incompatible

with the establishment of a long-term rural family residence in this location.

#### **4. Visual and Landscape Impact**

The surrounding landscape in north Mayo is of exceptional scenic value and forms part of a wider rural and coastal environment recognised for its natural beauty and undeveloped character.

The proposed turbines, due to their scale, height, movement and visibility, would have a substantial adverse effect on the visual landscape. The development would introduce industrial-scale infrastructure into a sensitive rural setting and would permanently alter the character of the area.

The open landscape surrounding our proposed home is a key reason we chose to invest and settle in this area. The visual intrusion associated with the proposed development would significantly diminish the scenic amenity currently enjoyed by residents and visitors.

#### **5. Impact on Tourism and Established Local Business**

My family has operated a public house in the local area for approximately 60 years. Over decades, we have seen first-hand the importance of the region's natural beauty, rural landscape, tranquillity and unspoiled character in attracting visitors and supporting the local economy.

Tourism forms an important part of the economic sustainability of rural communities in north Mayo, particularly in areas associated with scenic coastal and countryside environments.

I am concerned that the introduction of large-scale industrial wind infrastructure into this landscape may adversely affect the attractiveness of the area to visitors who come specifically for its scenic value and natural environment. Any reduction in tourism activity would have knock-on effects for long-established local businesses and the wider community.

I believe the potential economic and tourism impacts of the proposed development should be carefully considered as part of the planning assessment process.

#### **6. Environmental Concerns**

I am concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed development on peatland habitats, hydrology, wildlife, bird populations, biodiversity and the wider natural environment.

Given the scale of the proposal and the sensitivity of the landscape, the cumulative environmental effects require particularly careful scrutiny. I respectfully request that the planning authority fully examine the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and all associated ecological, hydrological and biodiversity assessments before any permission is considered.

#### **7. Concerns Regarding Proposed 110kV Grid Connection Infrastructure**

I also wish to raise concerns regarding the proposed 110kV cable route associated with the development, particularly where the route is proposed to cross existing bridge infrastructure in the Kiltane area on the route towards Bellacorick.

I believe further clarification and independent assessment may be required regarding the suitability and compliance of the existing bridge structure for accommodating high-voltage electrical infrastructure works of this nature.

Given the age and nature of rural infrastructure in the area, I am concerned about:

- Structural suitability of bridge and roadway infrastructure
- Potential safety implications
- Construction impacts and traffic disruption
- Long-term maintenance implications
- Compliance with current engineering and utility standards

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála ensure that all aspects of the proposed grid connection infrastructure are independently assessed and fully compliant with all applicable engineering, environmental and public safety requirements before any permission is considered.

## **8. Concerns Regarding Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**

I also wish to raise concerns regarding the proposed Battery Energy Storage System associated with the development.

Battery storage facilities of this scale require substantial cooling and ventilation infrastructure, including continuous or intermittent operation of industrial cooling fans and associated equipment. I am concerned that the operational noise impacts arising from this infrastructure may not have been fully or adequately considered, particularly in relation to nearby rural residences and the quiet nature of the surrounding environment.

In addition, I am concerned about the potential fire and safety risks associated with large-scale battery storage systems. There have been documented international incidents involving battery fires, thermal runaway events and inverter explosions associated with similar facilities.

Given the rural location and proximity to homes and environmentally sensitive areas, I believe the application should clearly demonstrate:

- Comprehensive fire prevention and suppression measures
- Emergency response procedures and local response capability
- Assessment of potential air quality impacts arising from smoke or toxic fumes in the event of a battery fire
- Full consideration of public safety implications associated with the BESS infrastructure

I respectfully submit that these matters require careful independent assessment to ensure that the proposed development would not pose an unacceptable risk to nearby residents, property or the surrounding environment.

## **9. Inappropriate Scale and Location**

While I support renewable energy development in principle, I do not believe this proposal represents an appropriate location for a wind farm of this scale and prominence.

Renewable energy policy must be balanced against the protection of residential amenity, scenic landscapes, environmental sensitivity and the long-term sustainability of rural communities.

In this instance, the proposed development would have an excessive and unacceptable impact on the character of the area and on nearby residents and future homeowners.

## **10. Conclusion**

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development.

I further request that particular consideration be given to the proximity of the proposed turbines to our planned family home, the potential impact on residential amenity and wellbeing, the sensitivity of the surrounding landscape, the potential effects on tourism and local businesses, the environmental concerns identified, and the safety and infrastructure issues associated with the proposed grid connection and BESS elements of the development.

Yours faithfully,

Kyle & Clara Holmes