

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin1

Date:24/7/2026

RE: Formal Planning Objection/Observation

-Planning Reference: PAX16.324387

-Proposed Development:13 wind turbines (180-metre tip height each), 110kv substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at Muingmore, Doolough and Tristia townlands Co. Mayo.

-Developer: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

-Objector: Larry Howard, Cashel Lodge, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge Co. Clare/ Muingmore, Belmullet, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

I am writing to formally object to the above planning application on the grounds of noise and disturbance impact, and specifically on the grounds of a serious medical risk to myself who regularly stays at Muingmore, located approximately 800metres from the proposed turbine site.

Medical grounds for objection

I am diagnosed medical condition called ****hypopituitarism****, which results in ****secondary adrenal insufficiency****. In practical terms, my pituitary gland cannot trigger my adrenal glands to produce cortisol — the hormone the body relies on to respond to physical and psychological stress, including noise, disrupted sleep, and prolonged environmental stressors. For most people, noise disturbance from turbine operation, low-frequency sound, shadow flicker, or construction activity is an irritant. For me, it carries a genuine medical risk:

- Cortisol is essential for the body's stress response. Without the ability to naturally increase cortisol output in response to physiological stressors, prolonged or repeated stress exposure (including chronic sleep disruption and noise stress) can precipitate an ****adrenal (Addisonian) crisis**** — a life-threatening medical emergency requiring immediate steroid treatment and hospitalisation.

- I manage My condition with daily hydrocortisone replacement and "sick day rules" that require increased medication during periods of physical or psychological stress. Ongoing, unpredictable noise and disturbance at a property where I regularly stay would materially increase My baseline stress exposure and the associated medical risk.

- This is not a subjective sensitivity to noise — it is a diagnosed endocrine condition with a documented, serious clinical consequence.

I have spent a lot of time in Muingmore over the years and enjoy our time there. Going for walks and spending time on Shraigh and Doolough beaches. We would always go for a walk on the Grassmeal Road to see the bog and try to find some frogs and bog cotton.

Planning Policy & Procedural Concerns

Mayo County Development Plan & Variation No. 2

I note that Mayo County Council formally adopted the Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo as Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan 2022–2028 on 13 July 2026, during the observation period for this application. The applicant's own

EIAR (Chapter 10) admits that the site is located within an area deemed 'Unsuitable' for wind energy development under this strategy. This development is therefore in material contravention of the current operative County Development Plan. Under Section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, An Coimisiún Pleanála cannot grant permission for development in material contravention of a development plan without specific justification. No such Justification has been provided. The placement of 180-metre-high turbines within 800 metres of an established family home fundamentally conflicts with the protective spirit of this newly enacted variation which seeks to prevent the over industrialisation of sensitive rural and residential areas.

For the reasons set out above, I strongly object to this application in its current form. I would ask that the Planning Authority either refuse the application or, at minimum, require independent assessment of noise, shadow flicker, landscape/visual impact, and ecology specific to this property before any decision is made. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and to be kept informed of the progress of this application.

Yours Faithfully

Larry Howard