

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

Date: 14th July 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:** Lauren Howard, Wardley, Monterey Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow & Muingmore, Co. Mayo

A Chara,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development (PAX16.324387).

While I do not reside in Mayo full-time, it is a place of immense personal significance to me. My father, uncle and aunts were all born less than 800 metres from the nearest proposed turbine. My grandfather and grandmother, although both now deceased worked hard on the adjacent land to the proposed turbines for all their lives to help my father and his brothers and sisters a start in their respective lives. I travel from Greystones to Mayo four to five times every year with my father to stay in his family's house, often bringing groups of my friends along with me. Over the years, these visits have shaped my deep appreciation for the unique, untouched landscape of County Mayo. I am deeply concerned that a heavy industrial development of this scale will permanently damage the very things that make this region so special.

My objection is based on the following key points:

1. Devastating Visual Impact on Tourism & the Wild Atlantic Way

The primary draw of North Mayo is its wild, dramatic, and uninterrupted landscape. People my age travel here specifically to disconnect and experience the raw beauty of the Irish coastline.

- Positioning **13 massive, 180-metre turbines**—which will tower over the landscape—directly threatens the visual integrity of this region. My

understanding is that 180 metres is approximately two Statue of Libertys stacked one on top of the other and this would be approximately 750m from the nearest dwelling. Clearly this cannot be considered equitable, healthy or right on numerous fronts.

- These industrial structures will be highly visible from key scenic routes and viewing points along the **Wild Atlantic Way**, turning a world-renowned tourist asset into a visually dominated industrial zone.

2. Destruction of Natural Heritage and Wilderness

My friends and I visit Mayo to experience its unique heritage, particularly the vast, tranquil blanket bogs and dramatic landscapes of Muingmore, Doolough, and Tristia.

- This area is one of the last remaining pockets of true wilderness in Ireland. To scar these ancient bogs with heavy concrete foundations, access roads, and industrial machinery is to destroy a vital part of our natural heritage.
- Once the peace, quiet, and ecological integrity of these bogs are compromised, they cannot be restored for my generation or those who follow.

3. Economic Impact on Local Tourism

Whenever my friends and I visit, we support the local economy—staying in local accommodation, eating in local pubs and restaurants, and visiting local attractions.

- Visitors travel to Mayo for eco-tourism, hiking, and scenery, not to walk in the shadow of giant industrial wind turbines.
- If the unique wilderness of the area is ruined by this development, young tourists like myself and my peers will simply choose to spend our holidays elsewhere, directly impacting the local businesses that rely on seasonal tourism.

Conclusion

Climate action is incredibly important to my generation, but it should not come at the cost of destroying our most sensitive natural landscapes and heritage. Renewable energy projects must be placed in appropriate, non-sensitive locations.

The scale of this proposed wind farm is entirely incompatible with the delicate ecology and landscape of North Mayo. For the sake of preserving our wild places and supporting sustainable tourism, I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to **refuse planning permission** for this project.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Howard

Greystones, Co. Wicklow