

Maisie McMaster

Doolough

Geesala

Ballina

Co. Mayo

F26 E1C7

06 August 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Re: Proposed development of Muingmore Wind Farm — 13 wind turbines, 110kV substation, battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure, townlands of Muingmore, Doolough, Tristia, Moneynierin and Bangor, County Mayo.

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited.

A Chara,

I wish to submit the following observation in respect of the above-named planning application, in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

MY DETAILS

Full Name: Maisie McMaster

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SUBJECT MATTER AND OBSERVATION

My Connection to Home

Although I currently live away from Erris, it has always been home. My mother still lives in the family home and I return regularly because my connection to this place has never changed. It is where I grew up, where my happiest childhood memories were made and where I hope to return to one day to build a life of my own. As my mother's only child, this will, one day, become my family home. The thought that it could instead be overlooked by an industrial wind farm, with the nearest turbine approximately 720 metres away, is deeply upsetting. Rather than inheriting the peaceful home and landscape that have always been part of my life, I fear inheriting a property whose setting, value and amenity have been fundamentally changed.

Childhood memories & the Natural Environment

Some of my happiest memories are of spending time outdoors with my late father. We spent countless hours fishing from the rocks and from our boat, walking through the bogs, watching for deer near our home and looking out for birds of prey and other wildlife. Those experiences gave me a deep appreciation for the natural environment and for the unique landscape of Erris. They are memories that have stayed with me throughout my life and are a large part of the reason I continue to feel such a strong connection to home. I am deeply concerned that a development of this scale would permanently alter the landscape in which those memories were made, and diminish the natural environment that I hope my family and future generations will also have the opportunity to enjoy.

The Landscape & My Future

One of the reasons I hope to return to Erris in the future is because of its unique landscape and quality of life. The open boglands, rugged coastline, wildlife and sense of peace are qualities that are becoming increasingly rare. They are also qualities that make this area an exceptional place in which to raise a family. I believe that introducing thirteen wind turbines approximately 180 metres in height into this landscape would fundamentally alter its character for decades. In my view, the scale of the

proposed development is incompatible with the unspoilt rural landscape that makes Erris such a special place to call home.

Dark Skies

Some of my favourite childhood memories are of lying on blankets in our garden on clear nights, watching for shooting stars while my father pointed out the constellations and taught me about the night sky. Those evenings fostered a lifelong appreciation of astronomy and of the rare privilege of experiencing a genuinely dark rural sky. I am concerned that the aviation warning lights required on turbines of this height would permanently introduce artificial light into this landscape every night throughout the operational life of the development. I believe this would fundamentally change the experience of the night sky for my family, for local residents and for future generations who should have the opportunity to enjoy the same dark skies that shaped my own childhood.

Wildlife, Blanket Bog & the Natural Environment

The blanket bogs, wetlands, coastline and surrounding countryside are among the greatest natural assets of Erris. The Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex is protected as a Special Area of Conservation under site code **000470**, while Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven is protected as a Special Protection Area under site code **004037**. They support a remarkable variety of wildlife and provide habitats that have developed over thousands of years. Throughout my childhood I learned to appreciate this biodiversity through time spent outdoors with my family, observing wildlife in its natural habitat. I remain concerned that the cumulative effects of construction, drainage works and long-term operation could adversely affect these fragile ecosystems. Once habitats of this nature are disturbed, they cannot simply be recreated within a human lifetime.

Archaeological Heritage

Through my growing interest in archaeology, I have come to appreciate the importance of Ireland's peatlands as landscapes that can preserve archaeological evidence for thousands of years. Blanket bogs have yielded remarkable discoveries that have contributed greatly to our understanding of Ireland's past. While I am not an archaeologist, I believe that landscapes with this archaeological potential deserve careful protection and thorough investigation before any large-scale disturbance takes place. I am concerned that extensive excavation and construction works could damage or

disturb archaeological features or artefacts that have remained preserved within these peatlands for centuries.

A Legacy for Future Generations

This proposal is not simply about the present; it is about the legacy we choose to leave. Decisions made today will shape the landscape that my generation, and those that follow, will inherit. I hope one day to return permanently to Erris and raise my own family here, just as my parents raised me. I want future generations to experience the same landscape, wildlife, dark skies and sense of wonder that defined my childhood. For these reasons, I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development.

Is mise le meas

Maisie McMaster

05 August 2026