

1st August 2026

To An Coimisiun Pleanála

Marcella Butler, Granny's cottage, Muingmore, Bunnahowen, Ballina Co Mayo F26VF84

Case number 324387

Observation on Proposed Wind Farm at Muingmore, Co. Mayo

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed wind farm development at Muingmore, County Mayo.

My family chose to retire to Muingmore because of its peaceful rural area offering tranquillity, natural beauty and a safe environment in which our children and grandchildren could regularly visit and spend holidays.

The proposed wind farm would fundamentally alter the character of the area and have a significant adverse impact on our quality of life.

Residential Amenity

The proposed turbines would introduce continuous mechanical and aerodynamic noise into what is currently a quiet rural environment. Even where noise limits may technically comply with guidelines, constant turbine noise can significantly affect the enjoyment of one's home particularly during evenings and at night when background noise levels are naturally low.

The development would also create shadow flicker from rotating blades, causing repeated flashing light effects within and around nearby homes.

This would interfere with the normal enjoyment of our property and reduce our ability to use our home and garden comfortably.

Health and Wellbeing

The planning authority has a responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of existing residents. The combined effects of turbine noise, shadow flicker, visual dominance and the stress associated with living beside a large-scale industrial energy development are matters that should be carefully assessed.

While scientific opinion on some health effects varies, the planning system recognises that protecting residential amenity is an important consideration.

The cumulative impact of noise, shadow flicker, sleep disturbance and loss of tranquillity would have a detrimental effect on our physical and mental wellbeing.

A further matter of serious concern is that a close family member who lives with us suffers from Alzheimer's disease and depends on a calm, familiar and stable home environment. The peace and tranquillity of our home are an important part of maintaining their comfort and wellbeing

The introduction of large wind turbines in close proximity to our residence, together with continuous turbine noise, shadow flicker, aviation lighting and the industrialisation of the surrounding landscape, would significantly alter that environment.

Such changes have a potential to cause increased distress, confusion and anxiety for a vulnerable person who relies on routine and familiar surroundings.

Impacts on Family Life

One of the principal reasons we retired to Muingmore was so that our children and grandchildren could visit regularly and enjoy a peaceful rural environment.

If this development proceeds, we will genuinely believe that our family will visit far less frequently because of the industrialisation of the area, the visual impact of the turbines, the constant noise and the overall loss of the peaceful surroundings that attracted us here.

This represents a significant loss to our family life and enjoyment of our home.

Property Value

Although property value alone is not normally a planning consideration, the practical reality is that homes located close to large wind turbines are often less attractive to prospective purchasers.

Granting permission for this development would leave our home substantially diminished in value and much more difficult to sell should circumstances ever require us to move.

This represents a serious financial consequence for homeowners who invested in the area in good faith.

Character of the Area

Muingmore is a quiet rural community with an unspoilt landscape that residents and visitors value. The proposed turbines would dominate the surrounding landscape and transform the area from a peaceful countryside into an industrial energy site.

This change would permanently damage the rural character of the locality and diminish the enjoyment of residents, visitors and future generations.

Planning considerations

I respectfully request that the planning authority carefully considers:

- The significant impact on residential amenity arising from turbine noise and shadow flicker.
- The effects on health and wellbeing of nearby residents.
- The adverse impact on family life and the enjoyment of our home.
- The visual impact on the landscape and the rural character of Muingmore.
- Whether the proposal complies with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development under the Planning and Development Acts and relevant Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- Whether all cumulative impacts with existing and proposed wind energy developments have been fully assessed.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that planning permission for this proposed wind farm be refused.

The development would have an unacceptable impact on the residential amenity, health and wellbeing, landscape and quality of life of those who live in Muingmore. Our home should remain the peaceful place we chose for our retirement and for our grandchildren to enjoy for many years to come.

Marcella Butler