

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: Margaret Roche, Clashnabrook, Mallow, Co. Cork.

I am writing to formally object to the above planning application for a wind farm development on the Grassmeal Road, Co. Mayo. I have holidayed in this area regularly over the years and know its beaches and coastline well. I set out my grounds for objection below.

1. Impact on Coastal Landscape and Beaches

- The proposed turbines, at a height of 180m significantly altering the unspoilt character of this coastline.
- Mayo's coastline is one of its principal natural and tourism assets, and much of the county's Atlantic coast falls within designated scenic routes, Special Areas of Conservation, and areas of high scenic value that this development would industrialise.
- The development conflicts with the Mayo County Development Plan's objectives to protect the county's coastal landscape and scenic amenity, and with national policy on protecting visual and landscape amenity in sensitive coastal areas.

2. Impact on Tourism and the Local Economy

- Mayo's beaches and coastline draw visitors whose spending supports local accommodation, hospitality, and other businesses. Large turbines close to the coast risk deterring this tourism.
- The Wild Atlantic Way brand itself depends on the perception of an unspoiled, dramatic coastline — an asset that is difficult to restore once industrial-scale turbines are introduced.

3. Noise

- Wind turbines generate mechanical and aerodynamic noise, including low-frequency noise and amplitude modulation, which can be intrusive to nearby residents and visitors, particularly at night.
- I request that the noise assessment submitted with this application be independently reviewed against current Irish wind energy guidelines before any decision is made.

4. Wildlife and Environmental Impact

- Mayo's coastline supports important bird populations, including breeding and migratory seabirds, as well as marine and coastal habitats that may be affected by construction and operation of the turbines.
 - I request that a full Environmental Impact Assessment/Appropriate Assessment be carried out (or independently scrutinised, if already submitted), including breeding and migratory bird surveys and impact on any nearby Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation.
- 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

Margaret Roche