

Michelle Gaughan
Lakefield, Bunnahowen, Co. Mayo
F26R2A0
michellegaughan82@gmail.com

25 July 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Observation on Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development (Case Ref: PAX16.324387)

A Chara,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm. I have lived in Lakefield all my life — forty-four years — and I have raised my two children here. Our home overlooks the proposed site.

Our home is much more than just a house. It is where our family has grown, where we have made lifelong memories, and where we have always enjoyed the peace, quiet, and natural beauty that make this area so special. The stunning landscape and uninterrupted views are a huge part of why we love living here, and that cannot easily be replaced once it is lost.

The proposed turbines, at up to 180 metres to blade tip, would dominate the landscape and permanently change views that residents and visitors have enjoyed for generations. I am also deeply concerned about noise — my son has very sensitive hearing, and constant turbine noise could seriously affect his ability to relax, sleep, and feel comfortable in his own home. What may seem like a minor issue to some could have a major impact on our family's health and wellbeing. Shadow flicker from the rotating blades worries me just as much; repeated light flicker can be extremely disruptive, particularly for anyone sensitive to visual disturbance.

I am also concerned about the cumulative impact of this development — increased construction traffic, disruption to local roads, the loss of a peaceful rural environment, and the effect on local wildlife and habitats, including Blacksod Bay, which supports internationally significant wildlife. On top of this, I believe nearby home values would be put at risk. Families who have invested their lives in this community should not have to bear these impacts, and the tourism this area depends on should not be put at risk either.

I would also note that Mayo County Council adopted its Renewable Energy Strategy only the week before this letter, and in it the Council identifies peatland sites like this one as unsuitable for wind energy development, given the risks that construction on deep, waterlogged bog poses to carbon storage, water quality, and the surrounding environment. That is the Council's own considered judgement, reached independently of this application, and it is hard to understand how this development can go ahead here in light of it.

I want to be clear that I support renewable energy in principle. My objection is not to wind energy itself, but to this development being sited here, in a quiet rural community where people choose to live because of its tranquillity, scenic beauty, and connection with nature.

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development.

Mise le meas / Yours sincerely,

Michelle Gaughan

25 July 2026