

Formal Submission of Planning Objection

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 20th July 2026

Re: Formal Planning Objection / Observation

Planning Reference: PAX16.324387

Proposed Development: Muingmore Windfarm (13 No. Wind Turbine Generators, 110 kV Onsite Substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Compound, and Associated Infrastructure.)

Location: Townlands of Muingmore and Doolough, Co. Mayo.

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

Objector Details:

Name: Noreen Vaughan

Address: 17 Silvergrove, Ballybeg, Ennis, Co. Clare. V95RX2A

Planning Objection to the Proposed Wind Farm Development

Dear Sir / Madam

I wish to make a formal submission/observation in relation to the above referenced Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). While I fully recognise the statutory mandate of An Coimisiún Pleanála to assess and facilitate key national infrastructure and the broader societal necessity of transitioning to renewable energy, such developments must be governed by a modern, robust and legally sound planning framework.

I strongly object to the proposed development on the grounds that the current regulatory environment is highly deficient, characterised by systemic policy failure and an absence of up-to-date statutory planning guidelines. I submit that granting permission for this development under the present conditions is premature, contrary to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, and highly prejudicial to the rights and interests of nearby residents.

The proposed development comprises 13 wind turbines of approximately 180 metres in height, located approximately 800 metres from my family home. Turbines of this scale and number would represent an overwhelming and dominant feature of the landscape and would give rise to significant concerns regarding visual impact, noise, shadow flicker, aviation lighting, and cumulative effects on residential amenity.

My home is not merely a dwelling but the primary environment in which my family gather for all occasions, weekends and holidays and spends the majority of its time. Our family includes two neurodivergent children who experience sensory processing difficulties and who rely heavily on the home environment as a place of stability, predictability, and regulation. The introduction of large-scale turbines in such close proximity has the potential to create substantial sensory disturbance through repetitive noise, blade movement, shadow flicker, and night-time lighting, thereby adversely affecting their wellbeing and quality of life.

I am deeply concerned that, should this development proceed, our ability to comfortably use and enjoy our home and garden would be significantly diminished. The potential loss of a calm and secure home environment for vulnerable children is a matter that warrants careful and substantial weight in the planning balance.

Furthermore, I submit that the assessment of this application must be approached with particular caution given the acknowledged deficiencies in the current wind energy planning framework, including the absence of updated statutory guidance addressing modern turbine dimensions, cumulative impacts, and appropriate separation distances from established residences. In circumstances where the regulatory framework has not kept pace with the scale of contemporary wind energy developments, the precautionary principle and the requirement to protect residential amenity should be afforded significant weight.

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 13th July 2026, during the observation period for this application. The applicants 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 the development in material contravention of a development plan without specific justification. No such justification has been provided. The placement of a 180 metre turbine within 800 metres of an established 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 submit that the proposed development, by virtue of its scale and the absolute regulatory framework under which it is being assessed, is entirely contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Please find enclosed the statutory fee of €50 for a submission/observation on an SID application. I look forward to receiving written acknowledgement of this submission and being kept informed of the boards decision in due course.

Yours Sincerely

Noreen Vaughan

Ennis, Co. Clare.

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