

Pat Monaghan
Tallagh Hill
F26 S623
patmonaghan3@gmail.com

18 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,

My name is Pat Monaghan and I am writing from Tallagh Hill to make an observation on the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm. I grew up in this area, and I have strong feelings about what this project would do to it, so I hope the Board will take the time to read this in the spirit it is written.

My first and simplest point is this: this does not have to be the site. There are thousands of acres of land across this country already identified and designated for renewable energy development, land without blanket bog, without a protected bay on its doorstep, without homes and communities built up around it over generations. When an alternative exists that avoids this level of harm, I believe the Board is entitled, and obliged, to ask why this site, of all sites, has been chosen.

This is also a tourism area, and I do not say that lightly. People come to Erris for wild, undeveloped coastline, for dark skies, for a landscape that has not been industrialised. The Wild Mayo strategy that Fáilte Ireland itself has backed for this part of the country depends entirely on that character surviving. Thirteen turbines at up to 180 metres in height, visible for miles, would not sit alongside that strategy, it would undo it. I do not see how a tourism plan built on wildness and a wind farm of this scale can both succeed on the same ground, and I am concerned that if this goes ahead, it will be the tourism plan, and the businesses and livelihoods built around it, that lose.

On top of that, I have serious concerns about the impact on wildlife. This site drains into Blacksod Bay, a protected bay that supports rare marine habitats, seals, otters, and internationally significant numbers of birds. Construction on deep peat of this kind carries a real risk of silt and runoff reaching that water, and once habitats like these are damaged, they do not recover within any timeframe that matters to the people living here now.

My concern is also, quite simply, for the people who will live near these turbines. Structures of this height and scale generate significant noise, and Erris is not short of strong wind. I am worried about what people living close to this development will suffer, in their sleep, their health and their day to day life, for the guaranteed 35-year lifespan of this project.

I understand that Mayo County Council's own Renewable Energy Strategy, adopted only last week, has assessed this area and found it unsuitable for wind turbines, for reasons including the risk to peatland carbon storage, water quality and the surrounding environment. This was the council's own considered judgement, reached before this application was ever decided, and I believe it should carry real weight with the Board.

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,

Pat Monaghan
18 July 2026