

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Patricia Gaughan

Muingmore

Geesala,

Co.Mayo

04.07.2026

Re: Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm**Case Reference: PAX16.324387**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make an observation on the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

My home is approximately 1,300 metres from the nearest proposed turbine. This is the home I want to protect for myself and my children. I love my home and I am very worried about the effect this development could have on our peace, our surroundings, our quality of life and the value of our property.

I love living in this area. It is peaceful, rural and surrounded by nature. I enjoy the quietness of the countryside and the fact that I can step outside my door and walk in a landscape that still feels open and natural.

This is the kind of life I want my children to continue to have.

Peace and quiet

One of the main reasons I value living here is the peace and quiet.

The area is especially quiet during the evenings and at night. There is very little background noise apart from the ordinary sounds of nature, weather, animals and local life.

I am worried that this would change if the wind farm was built.

Thirteen turbines of this size would introduce a constant industrial presence into the area. I am concerned about the possible swishing, thumping and mechanical noise from the turbines, especially at night when the rest of the area is quiet.

My home may be 1,300 metres from the nearest turbine, but that does not mean the noise would not be heard or would not be disturbing. Noise can travel differently depending on the wind direction, weather and surrounding landscape.

I do not want to find that the peaceful home I have now is changed into a place where I can hear turbines from my bedroom, garden or living room.

I also do not want my children growing up with industrial noise as part of their everyday lives.

My home and quality of life

My home is not just a building. It is where I am raising my children and where we should be able to feel safe, comfortable and at peace.

I am concerned that the combined effects of the turbines, shadow flicker, construction traffic, lighting and the battery storage compound could change how we live in our own home.

I do not want to have to keep windows closed because of noise. I do not want to close curtains because of shadow flicker. I do not want to avoid parts of my garden or change how we use our home because of a development nearby.

I chose to live in this area because of the quietness, scenery and rural way of life. I do not believe that local families should be expected to sacrifice these things.

The effect on residents should not be treated as minor simply because we live in a rural area.

Shadow flicker

Shadow flicker is another major concern for me.

The rotating turbine blades could create repeated moving shadows through windows and across rooms when the sun is in the right position.

I am worried about how this could affect daily life in the house, especially for my children.

It could interfere with reading, watching television, doing homework, eating meals or simply relaxing in a room.

Closing blinds or curtains is not an acceptable answer. People should be able to enjoy daylight in their own homes.

Any shadow-flicker system would need to prevent the problem before it occurred.

Residents should not have to record incidents and make repeated complaints before a turbine is stopped.

I am also concerned that modelling may not show the full real-life effect, especially when weather conditions, window positions and the use of different rooms are taken into account.

The landscape and my view

I love the landscape around my home.

The views, open sky, bogland and countryside are part of what makes this area special. They are part of my everyday life and part of what my children know as home.

The proposed turbines would be very large and would be visible across a wide area. Their height and constant movement would make them difficult to ignore.

This would not be a small change to the landscape. It would be a permanent industrial development.

Photomontages cannot fully show what it would be like to live near these turbines every day. They cannot show the movement of the blades, the changing light, poor weather, low cloud or the red lights at night.

I am concerned that the whole character of the area would be changed.

Wildlife and nature

I have a strong love of nature and wildlife.

One of the reasons I enjoy living here is the variety of birds and animals in the area. I regularly walk and spend time outdoors, and nature is an important part of my life.

The proposed development would involve far more than turbine towers. It would include roads, foundations, hardstanding areas, drainage works, cables, a substation and a large battery energy storage compound.

I am concerned about the loss and disturbance of habitat during construction and operation.

Noise, traffic, machinery, lighting and moving turbine blades could all affect birds, bats and other wildlife.

The land may look open and empty to someone who does not know it, but it is not empty. It is used by wildlife throughout the year.

I believe proper weight should be given to the value of the landscape as a connected habitat, not just to the exact areas where concrete or roads would be placed.

Blacksod Bay

I am also concerned about the connection between the proposed development area and Blacksod Bay.

Blacksod Bay is an important and protected natural area. Local streams, drains and watercourses eventually connect into the wider catchment.

I am worried about the risk of peat, sediment, dirty water or construction pollution entering streams during heavy rainfall.

Any damage to local water quality could affect wildlife and protected habitats further downstream.

The Commission should be fully satisfied that the construction of roads, foundations, drainage systems, the substation and the BESS would not create a risk to local streams or to the wider Blacksod Bay environment.

Walking my dog and use of the local road

I walk my dog regularly along the local road.

My dog loves the road and our walks are part of my daily routine. They are also one of the ways I enjoy the peace, nature and fresh air of the area.

I am worried that the road could become too busy or dangerous to use during construction.

Large numbers of heavy vehicles, delivery trucks and abnormal loads would completely change the experience of walking there.

Many local roads are narrow and do not have footpaths. There is often very little room for a person, child or dog to move out of the way of a large vehicle.

If traffic increased greatly, I may no longer feel safe walking my dog on the road.

That would be a real loss to my quality of life.

The road is not only a route for construction vehicles. It is used by local people every day for walking, cycling, driving, farming and bringing children to and from activities.

The safety and daily lives of residents must come first.

Construction traffic and road condition

I am concerned about the amount of construction traffic that would be required for a development of this scale.

The turbines, foundations, roads, substation and battery compound would require heavy machinery, concrete deliveries, stone, equipment and abnormal loads.

I am worried about damage to the local roads, including potholes, broken edges, cracking and subsidence.

These roads were not designed for repeated use by very heavy construction vehicles.

There should be independent road surveys before any construction begins. The condition of the roads should be fully recorded, and the developer should be responsible for repairing all damage promptly.

It should not be left to local residents or Mayo County Council to deal with damaged roads after construction.

There should also be clear controls on traffic times, speed, noise, mud and dust.

Battery energy storage system

I am particularly concerned about the proposed battery energy storage system.

This would be a major industrial compound and not a small addition to the wind farm.

I understand that the proposal includes a large number of battery containers, inverter equipment, fencing, lighting and other infrastructure.

I want to know what would happen if there was a serious fire in the battery compound.

Local residents need clear information about evacuation procedures, emergency response times, firefighting arrangements and how contaminated water would be prevented from entering drains and streams.

These matters should not be left to be worked out after planning permission has been granted.

The BESS should be fully assessed as a major part of the development in its own right.

Lighting and night-time impact

The area currently has a dark night sky.

The proposed turbine aviation lights and lighting around the BESS and substation would introduce new industrial lighting into the area.

I am worried that red turbine lights would be visible from my home every night.

This would affect the peaceful and rural character of the area after dark.

Lighting could also affect bats, owls and other nocturnal wildlife.

The night-time impact should be assessed from actual homes and local roads, not only through general descriptions.

My greatest concern is protecting the home and environment in which my children are growing up.

I want them to be able to enjoy the peace, nature and freedom that this area offers.

I want them to be able to walk, play outside and enjoy our home without constant noise, heavy traffic, shadow flicker or industrial lighting.

Children living in rural areas deserve the same protection and consideration as children living anywhere else.

The benefits claimed for this development should not be achieved by reducing the quality of life of the families living nearby.

My home is approximately 1,300 metres from the nearest proposed turbine.

This is the home I want to protect for myself and my children.

I love living here because of the peace, quiet, nature, wildlife and open landscape. I enjoy walking my dog on the local road and spending time outdoors.

I am deeply worried that the proposed wind farm would affect our quality of life, our view, our peace and quiet, the safety of our road and the value of our property.

I am also very concerned about shadow flicker and about the scale, safety and environmental impact of the proposed battery energy storage system.

I support the need for renewable energy, but I do not believe that local families and rural communities should have to accept unacceptable impacts on their homes and daily lives.

Renewable-energy developments must be located in the right place and must properly protect the people living nearby.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

I ask that the planning inspector visit the area, walk or travel the local roads and properly consider what this development would mean for the people who live here every day.

Yours faithfully,

Patricia Gaughan