

**Observation Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála
Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development**

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Observer: Peter Gaughan (son)

Address: Tristia Cottage, Mount Jubilee, Bangor Erris, Co Mayo, F26 T8F7

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Formal Observation and Objection to the Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development

Dear An Coimisiún Pleanála,

I wish to submit this formal observation and strong objection to the proposed **Muingmore Wind Farm Development (Case Reference PAX16.324387)**.

As a passionate admirer of this untouched wild rural environment of North West Mayo, I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the proposed development of wind farms on our landscape and local area in the Mount Jubilee – Muingmore area, in particular all the proposed turbines South of the Grassmeal Road. Our house in Tristia/Mount Jubilee is the closest dwelling to these turbines, in particular turbine 12.

In addition to the obvious fact of a huge structure within view of the front of my house, I would like to object based on the following:

While I understand the importance of renewable energy development, the current plans to install wind farms in traditional areas poses a direct threat to the livelihood and survival of hardworking farming families, the economic health of coastal and rural communities, and the delicate balance of the peatland ecosystems that surround us.

This area of Mayo suffered some of the highest rates of immigration over the years, with most families having relatives in England, Scotland or further afield. Today, you can see the first generations and second generations returning back regularly on several trips a year, or indeed many who grew up in London are now coming back to this area for good, to raise their Children in such a wild free and untouched landscape. Many escaping busy lives in places like London to come back to this place that touched their hearts as Children.

However, the sight of 180m high wind turbines from the front garden of the house is not the wild untouched landscape that this place is known for.

I have been coming back since a child since the 1980s, and have seen many changes, but not too many that change the landscape. The biggest change I notice in the last few years is the increased number of European visitors, looking to escape the continent to see the wild majestic untouched landscape of Erris and North West Mayo. This tourism and the revenue this generates will no doubt be affected by such wind turbines.

In addition to the extreme height of these turbines within close proximity of neighbouring houses such as mine, increased noise pollution, electromagnetic fields and shadow flicker are just some of the concerns we have.

In addition to this I would like to contribute further. I would like to comment as someone with 20+ years in construction and civil engineering projects, mostly reinforced concrete. The infrastructure is simply not in place.

The following list is not exhaustive, but the financial and environmental costs you may publish and report do not consider:

- Temporary haul roads created, local disruption, damage to ecosystems.
- Logistics
- Infrastructure to create and maintain cable routes for generated electricity, underground or overground structures
- Individual construction sites and access roads for each turbine
- Because of the various factors of safety with such public projects, completely over engineered foundations, resulting in excessive excavation, transportation and disposal of natural peatland habitat.
- Excessive concrete used in each base, using cement, the worlds biggest contributor to CO2 emissions.
- Excessive Steel reinforcement used in foundations, most likely originating from China by sea.
- I have previously been held up in Crossmolina by articulated lorries delivering the wind turbine shafts and blades; numerous 2000km+ deliveries for each turbine. These were coming from Scandinavia, on multiple lorry movements (half of these returning home empty), with multiple ferry crossings.
- The so called “re-construction” of these habitats once completed
- The water run off into local streams, such as the Muingcreana stream, a tributary of the Owenmore River. Small sea trout or “white trout” as they are known locally still swim up here. This is a prolific and well managed ecosystem in itself, part of the Owenmore/Owenduff system in the Tallaghan Estuary, an area I fish myself. All of this will be affected by this development, hurting the already critical Salmon and Trout populations. I own the land North of this stream very close to turbine 12 so this is of major concern to me.

We in this area are not against renewable energy—we are against poorly planned projects that ignore the long-term environmental and social impacts on existing local community. There must be a balance between clean energy development and the protection of locals, visitors, farmers and livelihoods.

I kindly urge you to advocate for the following:

- A review on wind farm development with such close proximity to local dwellings.
- Greater transparency and inclusion of residents, farmers, tourists and local voices in the planning and permitting process, on a grassroots level. We do not have the funding or power to challenge individual technical or scientific claims, but would like to see some consideration from you. How would YOU feel if you lived here.
- Realistic approaches when working out the true financial, social and environmental costs, not just a tick box approach to save the planet with renewable energy.

The proposed turbines North of the Grassmeal Road would still need to be reviewed and re-considered - I do agree there are parts of North Mayo like this that could be used for wind farms and this land from the Grassmeal factory to Glencastle could be suitable for a small number providing it is well managed, use the existing infrastructure like the Belmullet – Bangor Road, instead of local Mount Jubilee Roads.

My particular concerns are the proximity of these turbines to the dwellings in Mount Jubilee/Grassmeal Road/Muingmore populations, with our house being one of, if not the closest dwelling to the proposed farm.

The proposed turbines, in particular the ones South of the Grassmeal Road are a push too far and quite an aggressive and hurtful plan to the local community here in this part of Erris.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue

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