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13.07.2026

The Secretary

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Formal Observation / Objection to the Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

Proposed Development: 13 wind turbines, 110kV onsite electricity substation, Battery Energy Storage System, grid connection works and all associated infrastructure at Muingmore, Doolough, Tristia, Moneynierin and Bangor, County Mayo.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to make this formal observation and objection to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

We live approximately **756 metres from the nearest proposed turbine**. We are also approximately **1.3 km from the proposed 110kV substation and Battery Energy Storage System**.

This is our family home. It is where we are raising our children and where we hoped to have peace, safety and a future. The proposed development is far too close to our house and would directly affect our children, our health, our sleep, our roads, our safety, the bogland, wildlife and our everyday way of life.

This is the place our children are growing up in. It is our home, our road, our view, our quiet nights, and the landscape we live with every day.

This is a lived-in rural area where families are raising children, farmers are working the land, and people rely every day on narrow local roads. Around our home there is bogland, trees, fields and wildlife that are part of our children's everyday life.

We strongly object to this development and ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission.

1. Distance from our home

At approximately **756 metres from the nearest proposed turbine**, we believe our home is too close to a development of this size.

The turbines would be approximately **179 to 180 metres high**. In a quiet rural area like this, that is massive. The scale of the turbines, together with the substation, Battery Energy Storage System, access roads, hardstands, cables and construction works, would completely change the area around our home.

We are not looking at this from a distance. This would be beside our home and beside our children's daily lives.

We are very worried about the impact on our family's health, sleep, peace of mind and long-term future here. We should not have to live with the constant worry of noise, shadow flicker, heavy traffic, peat disturbance and industrial infrastructure so close to our house.

2. Our children and their future

Our biggest concern is our children.

A family home should be a place where children feel safe. They should be able to sleep, play, look out their windows, enjoy their garden, walk the road and grow up without this level of industrial development beside them.

We are deeply concerned that our children's quality of life would be affected. They would have to live with the visual impact, possible noise, shadow flicker, construction disruption, road works and traffic for years, and then the long-term operation of the wind farm after that.

This is their childhood home. Their future here should matter.

3. Property value and our children's future

We are also very concerned about the effect this development could have on the value of our home.

For most families, a home is the biggest investment they will ever make. It is also part of what we hope to pass on to our children. We have worked hard for our home, and it is deeply upsetting to think that its value could be reduced because of a development placed so close to us.

At approximately **756 metres from the nearest proposed turbine**, with predicted shadow flicker at **House 43 / SLR ID 43**, possible noise impacts, construction

disruption, road issues and major industrial infrastructure nearby, we are worried that our home would be far less attractive to future buyers.

This is not just about money. It is about security, stability and our children's future. We should not have to carry the financial and emotional burden of a development we did not ask for and do not want beside our home.

If our property value is affected, our family will be left with the consequences long after the developer has moved on. That is unfair and unacceptable.

4. Shadow flicker and our child's bedroom

Shadow flicker is one of our biggest concerns.

Our home is identified as **House 43 / SLR ID 43** in the applicant's shadow flicker assessment. The applicant's own figures for **SLR ID 43** show very high levels of potential shadow flicker before mitigation, including:

- up to **321 theoretical days per year**;
- up to **77.4 minutes in one day**;
- up to **225.7 theoretical hours per year**;
- and up to **66.1 likely hours per year**.

These are not small figures. This is our home and our children's bedrooms.

We are especially worried about shadow flicker in the morning and the effect it could have on a child's bedroom. A child should not be waking up to moving turbine shadows flickering across their room. That could be frightening, upsetting and stressful.

We do not accept that closing blinds is a proper solution. We should not have to block daylight from our child's bedroom because a turbine has been placed too close to our house.

We also do not believe it is good enough to rely on future mitigation or shutdown systems. The starting point should be that homes should not be put in this position in the first place.

Shadow flicker inside a family home is unacceptable.

5. Dark Skies and Aviation Lighting

One of the special things about this area is the darkness at night. We have very little light pollution, and on a clear night we can see the stars, the moon and sometimes the Northern Lights. This is part of the peace and rural character of the area and should not be taken for granted.

The proposed turbines will be approximately 180 metres high and will require red aviation warning lights. These lights would be visible from homes, local roads and across the wider landscape. Flashing red lights on top of turbines would completely change the appearance of the area after dark. Instead of looking out onto a naturally dark countryside, local residents would have to see industrial warning lights every night.

Artificial lighting can also disturb bats, birds and other wildlife that depend on natural darkness. This is particularly concerning in an area of blanket bog, streams, wetlands and protected habitats.

The effect of the development should not be assessed only during daylight hours. The visual impact of the red warning lights, their visibility from surrounding homes and communities, and their effect on the dark skies and nocturnal wildlife must be properly considered. Once these dark skies are lost, they cannot easily be restored.

6. Noise and health impacts

This area is very quiet, especially at night. When the night is calm, sound can carry. There is very little background noise to cover or hide anything.

We are very concerned about turbine noise, blade swish, low-frequency noise and the long-term effect on sleep and health. Noise that might look acceptable in a report can feel very different when it is outside your house at night and your children are trying to sleep.

We are also concerned about cumulative noise from the wider development, including the **110kV substation** and the **Battery Energy Storage System**. These are not silent pieces of infrastructure. Transformers, inverters, cooling equipment and electrical plant can all create noise.

At approximately **1.3 km from the proposed substation and BESS**, we believe the impact on our home and on other nearby families must be properly considered.

We are worried about sleep disturbance, stress, anxiety, concentration and the general loss of peace in our home. Once built, we would have to live with this for decades.

7. The Battery Energy Storage System and substation

We object not only to the turbines, but also to the proposed **110kV onsite substation** and **Battery Energy Storage System**.

The BESS is a major industrial part of the development. It would include battery units, inverter containers, transformers, cooling systems, fencing, access roads, security and lighting. This is not a minor part of the project.

We have concerns about:

- noise from cooling systems, inverters and transformers;
- fire risk or a thermal incident;
- access for emergency services on narrow rural roads;
- water supply in the event of an emergency;
- contaminated runoff from firefighting water;
- lighting and security lighting in a dark rural area;
- visual impact;
- and the long-term industrialisation of the area.

A battery incident may be unlikely, but if it happened the consequences could be serious. These matters should be fully assessed now. They should not be left to be worked out after permission is granted.

8. Concern that turbines could be moved closer

We are very concerned about any possible micro-siting or later changes to turbine positions.

If a turbine location, hardstand, access road, cable route or any other part of the development is later found to be unsuitable because of peat, drainage, ground conditions, bog movement or construction issues, it must not be moved closer to our home.

If the layout applied for is not suitable, that should be a reason to refuse or redesign the project. It should not be solved by pushing the impact nearer to local houses.

We ask that no turbine, hardstand, access road, substation, BESS compound, cable route or associated infrastructure should be allowed to move closer to our home than what has been assessed in the application.

Families should not be left wondering after permission whether the development could end up even closer.

9. Roads, delays, disruption and safety

The roads around us are narrow rural roads. They are not strong roads. Some are already in poor condition, and they are not suitable for the level of heavy traffic that would come with a development of this scale.

We are worried about road works, delays, damage, dust, noise and disruption to our daily lives. We are worried about school runs, work, appointments, emergency access and simply trying to get in and out of our own home.

These roads are used by families, children, walkers, farmers, tractors and people moving livestock. They are not built for repeated heavy lorries, abnormal loads, cranes, concrete trucks and construction vehicles.

We are also concerned about the state of the roads if they are damaged by construction traffic. It is not good enough to say roads will be repaired afterwards. Local people have to live with the disruption and risk while the work is happening.

There must be proper independent road surveys and structural assessments before any decision is made. The safety of local families and farmers should come first.

10. Bog, peat, carbon storage and bog slide risk

The bogland around us has real value. It is peatland, blanket bog, wet ground, wildlife habitat and part of the natural character of this area. It stores carbon, holds water and supports nature.

Blanket bog is recognised under **Annex I habitat type 7130** of the **EU Habitats Directive**, with active blanket bog being a priority habitat. This type of landscape should be treated with real caution.

We are very concerned about excavation, drainage, road building, turbine foundations and heavy machinery on peat. Peat is not normal ground. It can shift, crack, drain, dry out or move. A bog slide or peat movement could have serious consequences for homes, roads, streams, habitats and public safety.

We are also worried about changes to water movement through the bog. If drainage patterns change, the effects may not be confined to the exact turbine base or road. Water can move through peatland in ways that are difficult to predict.

The bog is a carbon sink. It has taken thousands of years to form. Once it is dug out, drained or damaged, it cannot simply be put back the way it was.

We do not believe this has been given enough weight.

11. Wildlife, trees and nature around our home

There is a line of trees near our house and behind our home, and the area around us is full of wildlife.

Our children love seeing the wildlife here. We have deer, foxes, hares, rabbits, bats, owls, snipe, kestrels and many small birds around the house, fields, bog and trees. This is part of their everyday life and part of why we love living here.

The trees, bog, fields and wet areas all provide shelter, feeding areas and movement routes for wildlife. They are connected. It should not be looked at as if each part of the landscape is separate.

The construction of turbines, access roads, hardstands, cables, drainage, lighting, substation and BESS would all disturb this area. Noise, traffic, habitat loss, lighting and long-term operation would affect the character of the place.

This landscape is full of life, and that should matter.

12. Protected sites, European law and scientific certainty

We are also concerned about the wider environmental impact on peatland, water, birds, bats and protected habitats.

Under **Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive**, the competent authority must be satisfied that a project will not adversely affect the integrity of European sites, based on proper assessment and scientific certainty.

This area is connected to sensitive bogland, watercourses and habitats. We believe the Commission must be very cautious where there is peat disturbance, possible hydrological change, risk to blanket bog, wildlife impacts and potential effects on protected sites.

If there is reasonable scientific doubt, permission should not be granted.

We also ask that impacts on birds and wildlife are considered under the **EU Birds Directive** and the relevant protections for habitats and species. This rural bogland and tree-lined landscape is a living environment.

13. The combined impact on our home

Each individual issue is serious, but the combined impact is what makes this development unacceptable.

For our family, this is not just one turbine or one road. It is:

- 13 turbines;
- a 110kV substation;
- a Battery Energy Storage System;
- shadow flicker affecting our home;
- possible noise and sleep disturbance;
- possible impact on our property value;
- construction traffic and road works;
- road safety concerns;

- peat excavation;
- bog slide risk;
- wildlife disturbance;
- visual impact;
- lighting;
- and the long-term change to the place we call home.

We are being asked to accept all of this at approximately **756 metres from the nearest turbine**.

That is unacceptable.

14. Request to refuse permission

For all of the reasons set out in this observation, we respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm, including all associated works.

This proposal is unacceptable so close to our family home.

We should not have to live with this level of noise risk, shadow flicker, road disruption, construction traffic, peat disturbance, wildlife loss, visual impact, possible property devaluation and industrial infrastructure beside our home.

Our children's bedrooms, our garden, our road, our peace, our property value and our everyday family life should not become the sacrifice for a development of this scale.

This is our home. This is our children's future. We are asking the Commission to protect it.

We strongly object to this development and ask that planning permission be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Sara & Andrew Kerrigan