

FORMAL SUBMISSION TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

Planning Reference: PAX16.324387

Proposed Development

Muingmore Wind Farm

(13 Wind Turbine Generators, 110kV Substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Associated Infrastructure)

Submission by

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Executive Summary

This submission respectfully objects to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm (Planning Reference PAX16.324387).

I fully support Ireland's transition towards renewable energy and recognise the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving national energy security. My objection is therefore not to renewable energy itself, but to the suitability of this particular proposal in this particular location.

Having carefully considered the planning application, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the accompanying documentation, I believe the proposed development would introduce an extensive industrial energy complex into a landscape of exceptional environmental, cultural and community value.

In my respectful opinion, the cumulative impacts of thirteen wind turbines approaching 180 metres in height, together with the proposed Battery Energy Storage System, electrical substation, internal road network, drainage works, underground cabling and associated infrastructure, would fundamentally alter the distinctive character of Muingmore and the surrounding area.

For the reasons outlined throughout this submission, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for the proposed development.

Formal Submission and Observation

Dear Sir / Madam,

I respectfully submit this observation in relation to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm planning application (Reference PAX16.324387).

At the outset, I wish to acknowledge the importance of Ireland's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources. Like many people, I recognise that renewable energy infrastructure will play an essential role in addressing climate change and securing Ireland's future energy needs.

I therefore wish to make it clear that this submission should not be interpreted as opposition to renewable energy in principle.

Rather, my objection concerns the suitability of this particular proposal in this particular location.

The planning system exists to ensure that developments, however desirable in principle, are located in places where they can proceed without causing unacceptable environmental, cultural and community impacts. In my opinion, the Muingmore proposal does not achieve that balance.

After reviewing the planning application, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the documentation available to the public, I have formed the view that this development would fundamentally alter a unique landscape of exceptional environmental and cultural importance.

I believe the cumulative impact of thirteen industrial-scale wind turbines approaching 180 metres in height, together with a substantial Battery Energy Storage System, a 110kV substation, new roads, extensive drainage works and associated infrastructure, would permanently change the character of Muingmore and the surrounding area.

For the reasons outlined in this submission, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission.

1. My Connection to Muingmore

Although I now live in Turlough, Castlebar with my husband and our four children, Muingmore has always been, and continues to be, home.

I was born and raised there. My parents built their lives there and my childhood was shaped by the landscape, the people and the traditions of the area. My earliest memories are inseparable from the open bogland, the Atlantic coastline, the quiet roads and the close-knit community that characterises this unique part of Erris.

I attended primary school in Doohoma before continuing my education in Belmullet. My wedding was celebrated in Geesala, another place that holds deep significance for my family and for many others who grew up in this part of North Mayo.

Although my parents have now passed away, the family home in Muingmore remains an important part of my life. Living only a short distance away in Castlebar means that I am fortunate enough to return regularly with my own family.

My children are growing up knowing the same place that shaped my own childhood. They know their grandparents' home, they know the roads, the bogs and the coastline, and they are developing relationships with the many relatives and lifelong friends who continue to live throughout the area.

These visits are far more than family occasions.

They represent continuity between generations.

They allow my children to understand where their family comes from and to experience a landscape that has remained remarkably unchanged throughout my lifetime.

That continuity has enormous value.

In an increasingly developed world, places such as Muingmore are becoming increasingly rare.

The landscape is not important simply because it is visually attractive.

It is important because it tells the story of generations of families who have lived, worked and built communities there.

It reflects a way of life that remains closely connected to the natural environment and to the distinctive character of Erris.

This submission is therefore not motivated by nostalgia alone.

It is motivated by a genuine concern that the scale of industrial infrastructure proposed would irreversibly alter the character of a place that continues to play a central role in the lives of many families, including my own.

2. Why This Place Matters

One of the greatest strengths of the Erris landscape is that it has retained an authenticity that has disappeared from many other parts of Ireland.

People who were born in Muingmore and now live elsewhere continue to return because the area still possesses the qualities that made it special decades ago.

The expansive blanket bog, the uninterrupted horizons, the Atlantic light, the dark night skies, the quiet roads and the absence of large-scale industrial development combine to create a landscape of exceptional character.

These qualities cannot easily be measured in technical reports.

They nevertheless represent important components of residential amenity, cultural heritage and quality of life.

For many families, including my own, returning to Muingmore is not simply a visit to a geographical location.

It is a reconnection with family history, community identity and a landscape that has shaped successive generations.

Planning decisions inevitably require balancing competing public interests.

In my view, the permanent transformation of this landscape into an industrial energy complex comprising thirteen turbines approaching 180 metres in height, together with associated substations, battery storage compounds, security fencing, lighting, internal road networks and extensive engineering works, would fundamentally change those qualities in a manner that cannot be reversed.

The issue is therefore not whether renewable energy is necessary.

The issue is whether this landscape is the appropriate location for a development of this scale.

3. Landscape Character and Visual Impact

One of the defining characteristics of Muingmore is its openness.

The landscape is not dominated by large buildings or industrial structures but by extensive blanket bog, low-lying farmland, the Atlantic coastline and wide, uninterrupted views that stretch for considerable distances.

It is this openness that gives the area its distinctive identity.

The proposed turbines would be unlike anything that currently exists within the surrounding landscape.

At almost 180 metres in height, they would become the dominant visual feature across a wide area, visible from numerous public roads, neighbouring communities and coastal viewpoints.

While I appreciate that visual impact assessments have been prepared as part of the planning application, I also recognise that such assessments inevitably rely upon technical methodologies that cannot fully capture how people experience a place over a lifetime.

For those who know Muingmore well, the issue is not simply whether the turbines would be visible.

It is the scale of the change they would introduce into a landscape that has retained its largely undeveloped character for generations.

Landscape is far more than scenery.

It contributes to people's wellbeing, sense of identity and attachment to place.

It provides continuity between generations and forms an important part of the character of Erris.

In my opinion, the introduction of thirteen industrial-scale turbines together with associated infrastructure would fundamentally alter those qualities.

4. Peatlands, Ecology and Environmental Sensitivity

The blanket bogs surrounding Muingmore represent one of the area's greatest natural assets. They support important habitats, store significant amounts of carbon and contribute to the distinctive ecological character of North Mayo.

Ireland's peatlands are increasingly recognised as nationally and internationally important ecosystems. They provide valuable habitat for wildlife, regulate water movement and play an important role in climate regulation through long-term carbon storage.

Although I understand that ecological surveys and mitigation measures have formed part of the planning application, I remain concerned that development of this scale within such a sensitive environment inevitably carries risk.

Construction of access roads, turbine foundations, drainage infrastructure and associated engineering works has the potential to alter hydrological conditions that have developed naturally over many centuries.

Even where mitigation is proposed, it is difficult to predict with complete certainty how complex peatland systems will respond over the lifetime of a development expected to operate for many decades.

In my respectful opinion, where uncertainty exists in environmentally sensitive locations, caution should prevail.

Protecting healthy peatland is not only important for biodiversity but also for climate policy itself. It would be unfortunate if infrastructure intended to contribute towards climate action resulted in long-term impacts upon one of Ireland's most valuable natural carbon stores.

The bogs of Erris are more than simply undeveloped land. They are living ecosystems that have evolved over thousands of years. Once disturbed, they cannot simply be restored within a human lifetime. Their ecological value deserves careful consideration whenever large-scale engineering works are proposed.

5. Sustainable Development and the Appropriate Location

I fully support Ireland's transition towards renewable sources of energy and accept that wind energy has an important role to play in achieving national climate objectives.

However, sustainable development is not simply about producing renewable electricity. It also requires careful consideration of where such development should take place.

The Planning and Development Acts require decisions to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of an area. In my understanding, this involves balancing environmental protection, community wellbeing, landscape character, cultural heritage and national policy objectives.

Not every location will be suitable for every type of development.

The fact that renewable energy is necessary does not automatically mean that every proposal is appropriate.

Each application must be assessed on its own merits and within the context of the receiving environment.

Having considered the information available, I believe Muingmore is a landscape whose environmental sensitivity, cultural significance and distinctive character make it an unsuitable location for a development of this scale.

Supporting renewable energy and objecting to this proposal are not contradictory positions.

Rather, they reflect the belief that Ireland's transition to a low-carbon future should be achieved in a manner that protects those landscapes whose environmental and cultural value is greatest.

Renewable energy is essential to Ireland's future, but the long-term success of that transition depends upon maintaining public confidence that developments are located where they are most appropriate. I believe careful site selection is fundamental to achieving that balance.

6. Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and the Character of Erris

Planning decisions are rightly concerned with archaeology and protected monuments. These are tangible reminders of our history and deserve the highest level of protection. However, cultural heritage extends beyond recorded archaeological sites.

It also includes the historic relationship between people and place.

Muingmore is part of a landscape that has been shaped by generations of families who adapted to one of Ireland's most distinctive and challenging environments. The bogs, small

fields, stone boundaries, traditional road network and dispersed pattern of settlement tell the story of a community that has evolved over centuries.

This cultural landscape cannot be recreated elsewhere.

For those of us who grew up here, the heritage of the area is not confined to monuments or protected structures. It is reflected in familiar roads walked to school, neighbours who have known one another for generations, family farms passed from parents to children and the enduring relationship between the community and the surrounding landscape.

These are qualities that contribute significantly to the identity of Erris.

Large-scale industrial development has the potential to alter not only the visual appearance of such places but also the way they are experienced by residents and visitors alike.

I therefore respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to consider cultural heritage in its broadest sense, recognising that landscapes themselves form part of Ireland's heritage and deserve careful stewardship.

7. Community, Residential Amenity and Quality of Life

Although I no longer live permanently in Muingmore, I continue to return regularly because my family remains deeply connected to the area.

Many of my relatives continue to live locally, while lifelong friendships established during childhood remain an important part of my life.

For those who live in Muingmore every day, this proposal represents a significant change to the environment in which they have chosen to make their homes.

For those of us who return regularly, it represents something different but equally significant.

The ability to return to the place where we grew up and find it largely unchanged carries enormous emotional and cultural importance.

Our children experience not simply a family visit but an opportunity to understand where they come from.

They learn about their grandparents, their extended family and the community that shaped previous generations.

Planning decisions inevitably require balancing competing interests, but I believe it is important that the value of established communities and longstanding family connections is not underestimated.

The concept of residential amenity extends beyond measurable standards relating to noise or shadow flicker.

It also includes tranquillity.

It includes dark skies.

It includes uninterrupted views across open landscapes.

It includes the absence of industrial infrastructure in places whose defining characteristic has always been their simplicity.

These qualities are difficult to quantify, but they are nonetheless real.

Once lost, they cannot easily be restored.

8. Construction Impacts and Long-Term Change

While much attention naturally focuses on the completed wind farm, I am also concerned about the scale of construction activity that would be required.

The proposal includes substantial excavation works, construction of new internal roads, movement of heavy machinery, delivery of exceptionally large turbine components, significant concrete works and associated engineering operations extending over a prolonged period.

Such activity inevitably places pressure on rural road networks and has the potential to disrupt local communities.

Although temporary construction impacts eventually end, the permanent infrastructure remains.

In this case, the long operational life of the development means that the effects of the proposal would extend far beyond the construction period.

The Battery Energy Storage System, electrical substation, extensive access roads and associated infrastructure reinforce the industrial character of the proposal.

It is therefore important that the development is considered as a complete project rather than simply as a collection of individual turbines.

The cumulative impact of all elements together is considerably greater than any one component considered in isolation.

For communities such as Muingmore, the construction phase is not simply an inconvenience. It represents the beginning of a permanent transformation of the landscape that will continue long after construction vehicles have departed.

9. Confidence in the Planning Assessment

I appreciate the significant amount of technical work that has accompanied this planning application.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report and associated documentation represent an extensive body of material prepared by experienced consultants.

However, the existence of detailed documentation does not necessarily remove legitimate concerns regarding the conclusions reached.

Having considered the application together with observations made by others who have carefully examined the supporting documentation, I believe there remain important questions regarding landscape impact, peatland ecology, hydrology, biodiversity and the cumulative effects of the proposal.

I am also conscious that planning decisions of this nature must be capable of retaining public confidence.

Where uncertainty exists regarding environmentally sensitive locations, I believe the Board should adopt a cautious approach consistent with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

This is particularly important where the consequences of an incorrect decision may be effectively irreversible.

The planning system functions best when communities have confidence that developments have been located only after the highest standards of environmental assessment and public scrutiny have been satisfied.

In my respectful opinion, I am not persuaded that this threshold has been reached in relation to the Muingmore proposal.

10. Landscape Stewardship and Responsibility to Future Generations

Throughout my life I have been fortunate to experience Muingmore in every season. I have seen the changing colours of the blanket bog, the Atlantic storms that shape the coastline and the quieter days when the landscape appears almost untouched by modern development. These experiences have given me an appreciation not only of the area's beauty but also of its resilience and fragility.

Landscapes such as this have been shaped over centuries by the interaction between people and nature. They cannot be recreated once they have been fundamentally altered. While vegetation may recover and temporary construction impacts may lessen over time, the introduction of permanent structures approaching 180 metres in height, together with associated roads, substations, battery storage facilities and engineering works, represents a lasting and fundamental change.

Planning decisions inevitably require balancing present-day needs with responsibilities to future generations. In my respectful opinion, stewardship is an important part of that balance.

We are only temporary custodians of the landscapes we inherit.

The decisions made today will determine what future generations experience tomorrow.

I hope that my own children, and those who grow up in Muingmore in the years ahead, will continue to enjoy a landscape that reflects the unique character of Erris rather than one dominated by industrial-scale infrastructure.

The choices made today will become the landscape inherited by future generations. Once that landscape has been fundamentally changed, the opportunity to preserve what previously existed cannot be recovered.

11. The Importance of a Precautionary Approach

The planning process rightly requires careful consideration of environmental effects, landscape impacts and the wider public interest.

Where uncertainty remains regarding the long-term consequences of development, particularly within environmentally sensitive landscapes, I believe a precautionary approach is appropriate.

The proposal before An Coimisiún Pleanála is not a modest alteration to the existing landscape.

It represents a substantial and long-term intervention involving multiple forms of infrastructure operating together as a single energy development.

Even where individual impacts may be considered capable of mitigation, the combined effect of thirteen wind turbines, the Battery Energy Storage System, the electrical substation, internal road network, drainage works, cabling and associated infrastructure has the potential to alter permanently the character of the receiving environment.

Once such change has occurred, it cannot realistically be undone.

For that reason, I respectfully believe that the burden should rest upon demonstrating not only that the development complies with technical standards, but also that it is genuinely compatible with the distinctive qualities of the landscape in which it is proposed.

Having considered the information available, I remain unconvinced that this has been demonstrated.

12. Cumulative Impact and the Scale of Development

One of the recurring themes throughout the planning documentation is the need to consider cumulative effects rather than assessing each element of the proposal in isolation.

I respectfully agree with that approach.

When considering developments of this scale, it is not sufficient to examine the visual impact of an individual turbine, the effects of a single section of roadway or the footprint of one item of infrastructure.

The proposal must be viewed as a single, integrated development.

In this instance, the proposed wind farm consists of thirteen turbines of exceptional height, together with a substantial Battery Energy Storage System, an onsite electrical substation, internal road networks, hardstands, drainage infrastructure, underground cabling, construction compounds and ancillary engineering works.

Each of these elements contributes to the overall character of the proposal.

Collectively they represent a significant industrial development within a rural landscape whose defining qualities have historically been openness, tranquillity and relatively limited built infrastructure.

For those familiar with Muingmore, it is this cumulative transformation that gives rise to concern.

The proposal would not merely introduce additional structures into the landscape.

It would fundamentally redefine the landscape itself.

Planning decisions should therefore consider not only whether each individual component can be justified, but whether the combined effect remains compatible with the character of the receiving environment.

Having reflected carefully on the proposal as a whole, I do not believe that this cumulative level of industrial development is appropriate within this landscape.

13. The Battery Energy Storage System

While the wind turbines naturally receive the greatest attention, I am also concerned by the scale and permanence of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System.

Battery storage has become an increasingly important component of renewable energy infrastructure, and I understand the role it can play in supporting electricity networks.

However, it should not be overlooked that the proposed Battery Energy Storage System represents a substantial industrial facility in its own right.

Unlike the turbines, which are dispersed across the landscape, the Battery Energy Storage System concentrates significant industrial infrastructure within a single compound incorporating battery containers, power conversion equipment, electrical installations, security fencing, lighting and associated infrastructure.

Its presence reinforces the industrial character of the overall proposal.

In addition to its visual impact, I believe it is reasonable for local communities to seek reassurance regarding operational safety, emergency response arrangements, long-term maintenance, noise associated with cooling equipment and the management of any unforeseen incidents.

I acknowledge that these matters are addressed within the planning documentation.

Nevertheless, the inclusion of such a significant industrial installation further distinguishes this proposal from what might traditionally have been understood as a wind farm.

It demonstrates that the application should properly be considered as a major energy infrastructure project rather than simply a proposal for renewable electricity generation.

14. Protecting the Character of Rural Ireland

One of the matters that has weighed most heavily on my mind while preparing this submission is the gradual change taking place across many rural parts of Ireland.

Our countryside has never remained static. Every generation has adapted to changing circumstances and new technologies. Change itself is not something to be feared.

However, there is an important distinction between change that grows naturally from the needs of a community and change that fundamentally alters the character of a place.

In my respectful opinion, the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm falls into the latter category.

The scale of the proposal extends well beyond the introduction of renewable energy infrastructure.

It would establish a substantial industrial energy complex within a landscape that has, until now, remained remarkably free from large-scale development.

The defining qualities of Muingmore are its openness, simplicity and strong relationship with the natural environment.

These qualities contribute not only to the wellbeing of those who live there but also to the experience of those who return to visit family, walk the bogs, enjoy the coastline or simply appreciate the peace that still exists in this part of Erris.

Planning policy rightly seeks to support sustainable rural communities.

In my view, protecting the distinctive character of places such as Muingmore forms part of that objective.

Development should enhance rural Ireland where possible.

Where a proposal would permanently transform the very qualities that make an area unique, I believe it is appropriate for the planning authority to ask whether a different location could better achieve the same national objectives with fewer long-term impacts.

15. Balancing National Need and Local Responsibility

I appreciate that An Coimisiún Pleanála is required to consider projects not only from a local perspective but also in the context of national energy policy and Ireland's commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

These are significant responsibilities and I do not underestimate the importance of achieving them.

Nevertheless, national policy has long recognised that renewable energy developments should be planned carefully and located appropriately.

Supporting renewable energy does not remove the obligation to protect environmentally sensitive landscapes or to consider the cumulative effects of major infrastructure on established communities.

The planning process exists precisely because difficult decisions require careful balancing of competing public interests.

In this case, I respectfully believe that the balance falls in favour of protecting the existing character of Muingmore.

The environmental, cultural and community qualities that define this landscape have developed over generations.

Once altered on the scale proposed, they cannot realistically be restored.

Renewable energy projects can and should continue to be developed across Ireland, but their success will depend upon maintaining public confidence that proposals are located in places capable of accommodating them without causing disproportionate harm.

That confidence is strengthened when planning authorities demonstrate that environmentally sensitive landscapes receive the highest level of scrutiny.

16. A Personal Reflection

When I first decided to prepare this submission, I intended simply to explain why I believed this proposal should not proceed. As I reflected on my own connection with Muingmore, I realised that the issue is about much more than a planning application.

Every family has places that become part of its identity.

For my family, Muingmore is one of those places.

Although life has taken me elsewhere, it remains the place where I first learned what community means. It remains the place where neighbours still know one another, where family histories remain connected to the landscape and where memories are not preserved in photographs alone but continue to exist in the places themselves.

When I return with my own children, I see them beginning to build the same connection with Muingmore that I developed as a child. They know the roads, the bogs, the coastline and the family home. They know the relatives and lifelong friends who continue to live throughout the area. They are beginning to understand where they come from and why this place matters to our family.

I hope they will always know Muingmore not simply as somewhere their mother once lived, but as somewhere that continues to retain the character, tranquillity and natural beauty that made it such a special place to grow up.

I fully accept that every generation experiences change. Communities evolve, landscapes evolve and development is often necessary.

However, not every landscape is equally capable of absorbing every form of development.

In my respectful opinion, Muingmore is one of those places where restraint represents the wiser course.

Sometimes the most sustainable planning decision is not to ask what can be built, but to recognise what is already of lasting value and deserves to be protected.

17. Why I Believe Permission Should Be Refused

Throughout this submission I have sought to explain my concerns in a balanced and respectful manner.

I fully recognise that renewable energy infrastructure is an important part of Ireland's future and that decisions regarding projects of this nature are rarely straightforward.

I also appreciate the considerable amount of work undertaken by the applicant in preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the associated planning documentation.

However, having carefully considered the proposal, I remain firmly of the opinion that the scale, character and cumulative effects of the development are incompatible with the unique qualities of Muingmore and the surrounding landscape.

My concerns are not based upon any single aspect of the proposal.

Rather, they arise from the interaction of all of its elements.

The proposal combines thirteen turbines approaching 180 metres in height with a substantial Battery Energy Storage System, an electrical substation, new access roads, extensive drainage works, underground cabling, construction compounds and associated infrastructure.

Taken together, these components represent a major industrial development rather than a modest extension of existing rural infrastructure.

In my respectful opinion, the cumulative effect of these works would fundamentally alter the character of an area that has retained its distinctive landscape, environmental and cultural qualities for generations.

I also remain concerned that the proposal is located within an environmentally sensitive setting where peatland habitats, hydrology, biodiversity and landscape character require particularly careful consideration.

While I acknowledge that mitigation measures have been proposed, I believe it is appropriate for An Coimisiún Pleanála to adopt a precautionary approach where uncertainty remains regarding the long-term effects of development in such landscapes.

Planning decisions should not be based solely on whether individual impacts can be mitigated. They should also consider whether the overall development is appropriate for its location.

Having reflected carefully upon that question, I respectfully believe that it is not.

18. Respect for the Planning Process

I would like to acknowledge the important role of An Coimisiún Pleanála in determining applications of this nature.

The Commission is required to balance national policy objectives with the protection of local communities, environmental resources and the long-term public interest.

I appreciate that this is not an easy responsibility.

For that reason, I have attempted to present my observations respectfully and constructively.

I do not claim to possess specialist qualifications in planning, engineering or environmental science.

Instead, I offer the perspective of someone who knows Muingmore not simply as a location on a map but as the place where I was born, where my family has deep roots and where I continue to return with my own children.

That perspective is different from a technical report, but I believe it also has value.

The planning system recognises the importance of public participation because local communities often understand qualities of place that cannot easily be measured through surveys, modelling or engineering assessments.

It is those qualities that I have sought to describe throughout this submission.

I hope they will be afforded appropriate consideration as part of the Commission's assessment.

19. The Public Interest

Throughout this submission I have tried to distinguish between my personal connection to Muingmore and the wider public interest that An Coimisiún Pleanála is required to consider.

My memories of growing up in Muingmore have undoubtedly influenced my decision to make this submission. However, my concerns extend beyond personal attachment. They relate to the long-term stewardship of a landscape that possesses environmental, cultural and community value extending well beyond those who currently live there.

The planning system exists to balance individual interests with the common good. In doing so, it recognises that some landscapes possess characteristics that warrant particular care because of their ecological sensitivity, cultural importance or contribution to the identity of an area.

In my respectful opinion, Muingmore is one such landscape.

Its value lies not only in its scenery but also in the way its peatlands, coastline, dispersed settlement pattern and long-established communities combine to create a distinctive sense of place.

These are qualities that contribute to the wider heritage of Erris and County Mayo. They are enjoyed by local residents, by those who return home to visit family and by visitors who seek out the area's natural beauty and tranquillity.

The decision before An Coimisiún Pleanála is therefore not simply whether renewable energy infrastructure can be accommodated within this landscape. It is whether the scale of the proposed development is compatible with the protection of qualities that are themselves in the public interest.

Having reflected carefully upon that question, I respectfully believe it is not.

20. Final Request

I appreciate the considerable responsibility placed upon An Coimisiún Pleanála in determining applications of this nature. I also recognise the importance of achieving Ireland's renewable energy objectives and the need to make decisions that serve the wider public interest.

However, those objectives should not diminish the equally important responsibility to protect landscapes, communities and environments of exceptional value where the impacts of development would be disproportionate.

My objection is therefore not based on opposition to renewable energy itself.

Rather, it is based on the belief that the Muingmore proposal is of a scale and character that is incompatible with this particular location.

For the reasons outlined throughout this submission, including the cumulative landscape effects, the industrial scale of the associated infrastructure, the importance of preserving the distinctive character of Muingmore and the need to maintain public confidence in the planning process, I respectfully submit that the proposed development would not represent the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

I therefore respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development (Planning Reference **PAX16.324387**).

Thank you for taking the time to consider my observations.