

4th August 2026

**Observation on Strategic Infrastructure Development Application
Case ACP-324387-26 – Muingmore Wind Farm**

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

I wish to make an observation on the above Strategic Infrastructure Development application and respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála **refuse permission** for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm.

My concerns are based on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development and whether it has been demonstrated that these impacts can be adequately avoided, mitigated or managed. In particular, I ask the Board to carefully consider the following planning issues.

1. Landscape and Visual Impact

The proposed wind farm would introduce a substantial industrial-scale development into a rural landscape. The cumulative visual effect of multiple large wind turbines, associated infrastructure, the electricity substation, battery energy storage system and access works has the potential to significantly alter the character of the area.

I ask the Board to carefully assess whether the proposal is consistent with national planning policy, County Mayo's landscape objectives and the protection of visual amenity. Particular consideration should be given to cumulative impacts with existing or permitted wind energy developments and the long-term effect on the area's landscape character.

2. Wildlife and Habitats

The proposed site has the potential to support important habitats and protected species. I am concerned that construction activity, habitat disturbance, turbine operation and associated infrastructure could adversely affect birds, bats and other wildlife, as well as peatland and ecological networks where present.

The Board should be satisfied that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Natura Impact Statement provide robust scientific evidence demonstrating that significant adverse effects on biodiversity have been avoided or can be fully mitigated. Where uncertainty remains regarding protected habitats or species, the precautionary principle should be applied.

3. Noise and Shadow Flicker

The proposed turbines may have adverse impacts on nearby residents through operational noise and shadow flicker. These effects can influence residential amenity and quality of life, particularly where dwellings are located within the potential zone of influence.

I request that the Board carefully examine the methodology, assumptions and conclusions of the applicant's noise and shadow flicker assessments to ensure that they reflect realistic operating conditions and adequately protect residential amenity throughout the lifetime of the development.

4. Environmental Assessment

Given the scale and complexity of the proposed development, I ask the Board to critically examine whether all direct, indirect, cumulative and long-term environmental effects have been fully assessed. Any uncertainty regarding environmental impacts should be resolved before permission is considered.

Where there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that significant adverse environmental effects can be avoided, reduced or effectively mitigated, permission should not be granted.

Conclusion

While I recognise the importance of renewable energy in meeting Ireland's climate and energy objectives, renewable energy developments must also protect biodiversity, landscapes and the amenities of local communities. Planning decisions should ensure that projects are located and designed in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála **refuse permission** for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm under Case ACP-324387-26.

Thank you for considering this observation.

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