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An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902
7th August 2026

**RE: Case Reference PAX16.324387 – Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm, Barony of Erris, Co. Mayo
(Applicant: RWE Renewables (Ireland) Ltd)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make an observation on the above-referenced strategic infrastructure application and to set out my formal objections to the proposed development. I am a regular visitor to the Blacksod area of Co. Mayo, directly across the bay from the proposed wind farm site, as well as a frequent visitor to the wider Erris area. I respectfully ask that the Commission take the following points into account during its consideration of this application.

Grounds of Objection

1. An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty & Unspoilt Wilderness

The Mullet Peninsula, Blacksod Bay, and the wider Erris area constitute one of the most unspoilt and scenic coastal landscapes in Ireland, forming a key foundational asset of the Wild Atlantic Way. The proposed development of up to thirteen turbines, standing at heights of up to 180 metres to the blade tip, would represent an industrial-scale intrusion into a pristine ecosystem. Structures of this monumental scale would be visible over a vast geographical area, permanently fracturing the character of a landscape whose primary societal and environmental value lies in its absolute wildness.

2. Ecological Crisis: Critical Stronghold for the Endangered Corncrake

The Erris region and the Mullet Peninsula are internationally recognized as one of the final, crucial geographic strongholds for the globally endangered **Corncrake (*Crex crex*)**. The introduction of thirteen industrial-scale wind turbines brings severe risks of habitat fragmentation, displacement, and collision mortality for this highly sensitive, red-listed species. Industrializing this specific terrain directly threatens the intensive, state-backed conservation efforts embedded in the region, making this location fundamentally inappropriate for a large-scale energy development.

3. Realignment with National Tourism Policy: Fáilte Ireland's Corporate Strategy 2026–2029

The economic future of Erris relies entirely on sustainable, eco-driven tourism investment. This proposal directly contradicts the strategic pillars outlined in the newly launched Fáilte Ireland

Corporate Strategy 2026–2029, which mandates a shift toward high-impact regional investment, long-term environmental sustainability, and the preservation of communities that tourism relies upon.

The primary driver for international travel to this region is visual and environmental. As the CEO of Fáilte Ireland, Caroline Bocquel, recently highlighted in a prominent national newspaper article, international visitors travel to Ireland primarily driven by our raw, unblemished **scenery and dramatic landscapes**, rather than simply for a localized "Irish welcome and craic". By sacrificing Erris's premier asset—its landscape—this development actively sabotages the exact scenic infrastructure that national tourism bodies are spending millions to protect and promote over the next three years.

4. Absolute Destruction of a Vulnerable Economic Base

Erris is an exceptionally remote region with highly restricted alternative economic infrastructure; by way of illustration, the nearest cinema to Blacksod is in Ballina, approximately 82 kilometres away. The community has little alternative industry but possesses immense, growing tourism equity. Local stakeholders are investing heavily in businesses like offshore island boat tours and the Sonas Visitor Centre.

Placing a massive industrial wind farm in the direct line of sight of Blacksod Bay removes the precise qualities of remoteness, tranquillity, and visual purity that visitors pay to experience. The economic damage will cascade across the peninsula, permanently undermining the long-term commercial viability of local hospitality and marine operators.

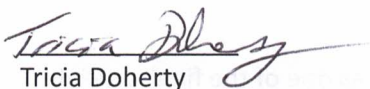
5. Environmental and Visual Impact Incompatible with Sustainable Development

The proposed Muingmore Wind Farm is fundamentally opposed due to its massive visual and environmental impact on this pristine, scenic landscape, which directly conflicts with proper sustainable development principles. Constructing 180-metre turbines would permanently industrialize a key ecological and tourism zone. This will cause irreversible damage to the unique character, wildlife habitats, and fragile economic base of the Erris region.

For the critical environmental and economic reasons set out above, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for this proposed development.

I have paid the fee of €50 in respect of this observation and look forward to receiving your formal acknowledgement of this submission.

Yours faithfully,


Tricia Doherty