

Doolough,
Geesala,
Ballina,
Co Mayo
F26 P2Y1

Case Number PAX16.324387

My name is Áine O'Sullivan and I am 12 years old. I was born in England, but my parents brought me home to Doolough when I was just three weeks old. My mum grew up in Geesala, and my parents decided to build our forever home here because they wanted my sisters and me to grow up in a peaceful, quiet and safe place.

I am a real home bird and I love where I live. The things I like most about home are the peace and quiet and the beautiful views of the mountains. My grandparents live only two miles away, and I love being close to them and the rest of my family.

I am a huge animal lover. We are lucky to have land behind our home, which means we can care for many animals, including donkeys, chickens, ducks, dogs and cats. Looking after them is one of my favourite things to do, and I spend a lot of my time outside with them.

I am very worried that this same land near our home may have giant wind turbines built on it. They would be very close to our house and to all of our animals. I worry about how the turbines, the construction work, the noise and the extra traffic could affect them and disturb the peaceful place they live in.

Three years ago, we changed part of our lawn into a wildflower garden. Since then, we have seen so much more wildlife, especially birds, bees and butterflies. I love seeing them around our home, and I worry about what could happen to them if the area becomes an industrial wind farm.

I travel to school every day by bus, and I understand that the road we use is proposed to be one of the routes for construction traffic. Our roads are already very narrow and have lots of potholes. When our school bus meets a tractor, another bus or even a van, our bus driver often has to pull in and wait so the other vehicle can pass safely.

I worry about what will happen if huge construction lorries are using these same roads every day. Will my bus be delayed? Will I have to get up even earlier on school mornings just to make sure I get to school on time? I don't think children should have to worry about things like that because of a wind farm.

The quiet, the wildlife, the animals and the mountain views are what make our home so special. I would be heartbroken to see this place changed forever.

When I am older, I hope to build my own home here so that I can stay close to my parents and grandparents and raise my own family in the same peaceful place where I have grown up. I hope my children will have the chance to enjoy the same beautiful home that I have been so lucky to grow up in.

I respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development and to protect our home, our animals, our wildlife and the landscape for children like me and for future generations.

Thank you

Áine O'Sullivan