

To An Bord Pleanála,

Re: Formal objection to case reference VA16.324429 — proposed 110kV onsite electrical substation at Cloonbaul, Co. Mayo

I wish to make a formal objection to the above application. The proposed 110kV onsite electrical substation appears to be directly associated with planning application 2660398, submitted to Mayo County Council by Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Ltd. for a proposed wind farm. As Mayo County Council has refused permission for that wind farm application, I respectfully submit that there is no clear planning justification or demonstrated need for this substation at this location.

The proposed site is located in a rural area that remains actively farmed and includes bogland used for turf cutting. The area also provides habitat for wildlife, including the curlew, which is a protected species under Irish and EU law. I am concerned that the ecological impacts of the proposed development, including disturbance, habitat loss, drainage changes and cumulative impacts with related wind farm infrastructure, have not been adequately addressed.

Although the application describes the area as having low residential density, there are families living locally and families with long-standing ties to the area who may wish to build homes on their own land in the future. I am concerned that permitting major electricity infrastructure of this scale could prejudice future residential planning opportunities for families who wish to return to or remain in the Mayo Abbey area.

I am also concerned about the scale, operation and visual impact of the proposed substation. If the substation is to be monitored on a continuous basis and illuminated by floodlighting, this may adversely affect nearby residents, rural amenity, dark skies and local wildlife. The application should also fully assess the impact of underground cabling and associated works, particularly in an area that already experiences flooding. I am concerned that excavation, drainage changes and cable installation could worsen existing flooding or create new surface water problems.

Mayo already accommodates a significant amount of wind farm and energy infrastructure. I believe the cumulative effect of further wind farm-related infrastructure in this rural location has not been properly justified. Mayo Abbey is a small village with an important historic monastery and a distinctive rural setting. Approval of a large electrical substation in this area would, in my view, detract from the character, heritage value and landscape setting of the locality.

I also note that, while this infrastructure would support electricity generation and transmission, local residents do not appear to receive any direct benefit, such as

reduced energy costs, proportionate community gain, or meaningful local advantage that would outweigh the identified impacts.

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála refuse this application. Please record this submission as a formal objection from Marion Barnicle, Cloonduane, Belcarra Castlebar Co Mayo.