Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm Grid Connection

Case Reference: VA12.324597
Applicant: FuturEnergy Lissinagroagh DAC
Observers: Fabian and Donna McMorrow
Location: Shasmore, Manorhamilton, County Leitrim, F91P2D3
Date: 15 October 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to make an observation in respect of the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm Grid Connection, comprising a proposed 110 kV substation and associated underground electricity cable connection to the existing Srananagh 110 kV substation.

We previously made a detailed submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm. That submission identified concerns regarding the accuracy and completeness of the environmental information, hydrological connectivity, peat and ground stability, archaeological heritage and the assessment of effects on the receiving environment.

This observation concerns the grid connection application in its own right. We recognise that the grid connection is a distinct planning application, but it is also infrastructure intended to serve the proposed wind farm. We therefore ask the Commission to examine both the direct effects of the grid connection and its relationship with the associated generating development.

Our concern is not opposition to renewable energy as a principle. It is that infrastructure of this scale should only be permitted where its purpose is justified and its environmental consequences have been properly identified, assessed and addressed.

1. Functional dependency between the grid connection and the wind farm

The grid connection is proposed to facilitate the export of electricity from the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm to the national electricity network.

The application documentation identifies the wind farm and grid connection as functionally interdependent and as constituting a single project for Environmental Impact Assessment purposes, notwithstanding the use of separate planning applications.

This relationship raises an important question regarding the planning justification for the grid connection.

If permission for the associated Lissinagroagh Wind Farm is refused, the principal generating development for which the grid connection is proposed would not proceed as applied for. The Commission should therefore consider what planning purpose would remain for the proposed cable route, substation and associated infrastructure in that circumstance.

The applicant should demonstrate whether there is any independently established need for this particular infrastructure, route and substation, separate from the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm.

We ask the Commission to consider the relationship between the two applications when determining whether the grid connection is justified in its proposed form.

2. Completeness of environmental information and cumulative effects

In reviewing the wind farm application, we identified a number of matters where we considered the mapping, measurements or environmental assessment required clarification. These included the relationship between proposed works and archaeological features, the identification of watercourses and the adequacy of information relating to the receiving environment.

We ask the Commission to ensure that equivalent standards of accuracy and completeness have been applied to the grid connection application.

Although the grid connection and wind farm are the subject of separate planning applications, their environmental effects should be assessed in a coordinated manner that adequately accounts for their functional relationship and any combined or cumulative effects.

The Commission should be satisfied that the assessment considers the combined construction and operational context of the two developments, including any overlapping effects on water quality, habitats, archaeological heritage, traffic, local access and the amenity of affected residents.

Where the grid connection assessment incorporates information from the wind farm EIAR, the applicant should demonstrate that the information is appropriate to the grid connection route and that it adequately addresses the additional works and impacts arising from the connection itself.

We ask the Commission to identify any material gaps or inconsistencies before reaching its determination and to ensure that conclusions regarding the absence of significant effects are supported by sufficient information.

3. Baseline noise survey and calibration documentation

We ask the Commission to examine the calibration documentation supporting the baseline noise survey for the proposed grid connection, set out in EIAR Appendix 9-4.

Concerns have been raised regarding the calibration documentation for the sound level meter identified as serial number 2818091 and the Brüel & Kjær Type 4231 sound calibrator. The stated November 2023 calibration date for the meter is also noted in the context of the survey undertaken on 2 December 2025.

We respectfully ask the Commission to confirm that the relevant equipment held valid calibration certification at the time of the survey, having regard to the applicable two-year calibration validity period, and that the supporting certificates are available in the application documentation.

The purpose of this request is simply to ensure that the baseline noise measurements, which inform the assessment of potential noise impacts from the proposed development, are supported by appropriate and verifiable calibration records.

Yours faithfully,

Fabian and Donna McMorrow
Shasmore, Manorhamilton
County Leitrim