

Name Emma Barretto O'Dea & family  
Address 20 Rathdown Park,  
Terenure, Dublin 6W D6W F302  
Email: [emzyodea@yahoo.com](mailto:emzyodea@yahoo.com)

Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

28<sup>th</sup> July, 2026

## **OBSERVATION ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2**

**ACP Reference: ABP-319864-24**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been holidaying in Brittas Bay since the early 1980s, when I first stayed there as a child. Growing up, I regularly spent up to three months there each year, and those experiences gave me a deep appreciation for its unique landscape, wildlife, and sense of place. Today, I continue that tradition with my husband and our three young children, creating the same cherished memories that have been part of my life for so many years.

I am making this observation because I am deeply concerned about the proposal to construct a very large industrial development on a shallow and dynamic offshore sandbank located close to beaches, dunes, protected habitats, and coastal communities.

I support the transition to renewable energy and fully accept that Ireland needs to develop offshore wind generation as part of meeting its climate and energy objectives. My concern is not with offshore wind as a concept, but with the suitability of Arklow Bank as the location for a development of this scale. Based on the information provided, I am not convinced that the additional material submitted by the Applicant demonstrates that the project can proceed without causing harm to the offshore sandbank, sediment transport processes, nearby beaches, protected habitats, bathing waters, or the wildlife that depends upon these environments.

The Applicant's assessment relies predominantly on computer modelling. However, I do not believe it has been clearly demonstrated that the modelling is sufficiently accurate or reliable to support the conclusion that the project's impacts will be negligible. If those predictions prove to be incorrect, the consequences could extend well beyond the development site, affecting local communities, tourism, the coastal environment, and the State's natural heritage.

European Union law requires that any decision affecting protected European sites must be based on complete, precise, and definitive findings capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt. Where such doubt remains, the precautionary principle requires that environmental protection takes precedence over assumptions of negligible impact or reliance on future monitoring to identify problems after they have occurred.

Future generations will not judge this decision solely on the urgency with which Ireland pursued its climate targets. They will also judge whether, in meeting those objectives, Ireland protected its irreplaceable natural assets when it still had the opportunity to do so. I believe

that the transition to renewable energy must be achieved in a way that respects both the environment and the legal protections that exist to safeguard it for present and future generations.

I therefore request that ACP refuse permission, or require further independent assessment, unless and until SSE provides scientifically robust evidence demonstrating that the project will not adversely affect Arklow Bank, coastal processes, water quality, protected habitats, wildlife or the integrity of the adjoining Wicklow and Wexford coastline.

Yours faithfully

Emma Barretto O'Dea and family