

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Planning Application by Gort Windfarms Ltd – Ref. No. [Insert Reference] – Proposed Decommissioning of Derrybrien Wind Farm (70 turbines), Slieve Aughty, Co. Galway

Name: Planet Before Profit CLG

Address: Glenview, Ballycorous Road, Shankill, Dublin 18 D18F9X3

Date: 4th August 2025

Re: ACP Planning Ref: FD07.323018

Subject: Derrybrien Wind Farm decommissioning

I wish to lodge a public observation/objection to the above planning application.

1. Summary

I oppose the proposed dismantling of the long-standing renewable energy installation, which previously generated enough electricity to power approximately 30,000 homes.

2. Grounds of Objection

A. Climate & Energy

- Removing a large-scale renewable generation asset undermines Ireland's urgent decarbonisation and energy security plans.
- Disassembly is contrary to EU/Irish renewable targets and prolongs reliance on fossil-fuels.

B. Environmental Impact

- The plan to fully remove above-ground infrastructure risks serious disturbance to fragile peatland and hydrology if not properly assessed.
- Precedent—the 2003 peat-slide—demonstrates the site's vulnerability and the need for a detailed EIA .

C. Remediation Strategy

- Simply leaving turbine bases and tracks in situ may still cause long-term ecological harm.
- Full Environmental Impact Assessment must be required to ensure safe decommissioning and site restoration.

D. Alternatives

- No justification is offered for exploring less harmful alternatives, such as partial retention, repowering with newer turbines, or restoring generation capacity.

3. Relief Sought

I request that An Coimisiún Pleanála:

1. Refuse the current application; or
2. Require a comprehensive EIA and Appropriate Assessment, focusing on peatland integrity and hydrological risk; and
3. Explore alternatives including phased decommissioning, repowering, or partial re-utilisation in alignment with national climate commitments.

Yours sincerely,
Paul O'Shea

Director

Planet Before Profit CLG