

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA
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Time: 9.15 By: Reg. Post

Ballymagroarty,
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An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

26th August 2025

Subject: Formal Objection to Substitute Consent
Case Ref: QD05E.323037
Case Type: Quarry
Applicant: Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident and landowner near the quarry operated by Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd. I wish to lodge a formal objection to the application for substitute consent (Case Ref: QD05E.323037). For decades, Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd has operated an unauthorised quarry with ongoing detrimental effects on the environment and local community.

Following the dismissal of the SU0128 substitute consent application and refusal of QD0018 for extension to existing quarry in 2017, I was expecting the quarry to close down. On that basis, I decided to renovate my dwelling on the farm and relocate home for my retirement. Therefore, it comes as a shock and apprehension that the applicant had lodged an application for substitute consent.

The quarry's continuous operation without planning permission directly contravenes the Planning and Development Acts, and this substitute consent process would retrospectively authorise the decades of unauthorised development. Any quarry that carried on as this quarry operator has for over fifty years and the negative impact on the residents and landowners should not be granted retrospective planning permission. Substitute consent should not be a mechanism to reward longstanding non-compliance, and persistent unauthorised development warrants enforcement and cessation, not retrospective permission.

The site for the main quarry has always been unsuitable as it is criss-crossed by local roads. The original road which traversed the site is now unrecognisable and too dangerous for children and adults to walk on foot. The south quarry straddles both sides of the road and the public has to navigate quarry activities when walking, cycling and driving and is an accident waiting to happen.

The north quarry is a dangerous legacy with cliff faces and sheep wire fence to prevent access, with a dangerous quarry lake formed. The north quarry would not be granted planning if it were a new application so it should not be legalised by the state authorities just because it is there. The north quarry should not be granted respective planning permission.

The south quarry is at the heart of the operations, and this is where the majority of the pollutants arise. The south quarry is in direct line of sight from the front door of my property. The quarry breaker, which is located above ground level, spreads noise and dust far and wide. The prevailing north westerly winds carry noise and dust from the quarry to my dwelling. There has been no serious attempt to put in mitigation measures at the quarry, and the application



is to retain everything as is and for the residents to put up with it. The quarry operator's actions show a lack of consideration for the well-being of neighbouring residents. The quarry staff come to work in the quarry and create noise and dust and then drive off in the evening and leave it all behind. Despite what the applicants says in the rEIAR, noise and dust are at levels that are annoying, and my car and windows at my house are often coated in a fine layer of dust.

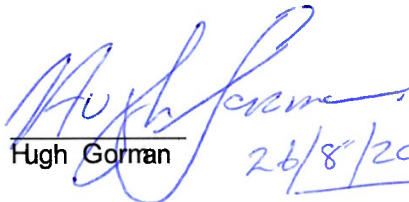
The quarry recommenced blasting in the south quarry from late 2015 to end of 2019 and has created a void in the base of the south quarry, below the water table. The quarry application QD0018 for extension to west of south quarry was for excavation to a depth of 85 metres OD, in order to stay above the water table. Following refusal of QD0018, the quarry deepened the south quarry below the water table. This unauthorised quarrying shows that the quarry continued to carry out unauthorised works, with potential impacts on groundwater, knowing that this should not be done.

The south quarry is an eyesore and a blot on the landscape. The quarry has injured the amenities in the area and depreciated the value of my farm and dwelling.

The substitute consent application has not addressed the history of significant adverse impacts on the environment and residents from huge unregulated blasts that shook the ground, excessive noise and dust, smells, quarry traffic on road through quarry, visual amenity and destruction of views particularly from public road to west of the north quarry.

Considering the quarry's long-standing unauthorised operations, its historical adverse impacts on the environment and residents, and the absence of meaningful mitigation measures, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse substitute consent for this quarry.

Yours sincerely,


Hugh Gorman NUB
26/8/2025