

**Submission from Louis O'Hara of Peakroe, Athenry, Co Galway on the Derrybrien  
Windfarm Substitute Consent Application (ref: ABP-308019)**

**Substitute Consent Application**

Significant issues with the application have been identified in the 'Technical Assessment of Derrybrien Windfarm and Ancillary Works' conducted for the European Commission by Arcadis. Of particular concern are issues around future monitoring requirements, demolition waste and the risk of future peat slides following decommissioning.

In addition the lack of engagement with the local community in Derrybrien throughout the process is a major cause for concern. Throughout the process certain documentation was inaccessible, local residents were left uninformed due to the complex nature of the topic and there was not enough time given for members of the public to make informed submissions on the matter due to the volume of documents.

Stakeholders were not consulted with and their concerns are absent from the application, despite attempts by local groups to contribute to it. It is wrong that the concerns of stakeholders are local residents would not be taken into account given the enormous damage this development has caused to the local environment in the past.

Also of concern are signs erected at the site warning against turf cutting due to peat instability. This contradicts previous assurances from the developer that the site is safe. It appears to be a vindictive move against the local community in Derrybrien.

**Exceptional Circumstances**

For the majority of this consultation window of 5 weeks, online access wasn't provided to new information submitted, notices to prescribed bodies and people who had made previous submissions were not executed in accordance with legislation, and the public have been faced with a lack of clarity on when the consultation commenced.

Again the general public have been left uninformed on this matter. The signs erected at the site don't mention that the application relates to 'exceptional circumstances'. The ESB has not consulted with local residents about this stage of the application. Due to this lack of communication the community in Derrybrien have been put at a huge disadvantage and many will be excluded from the planning process as a result. Furthermore the ESB appear to have deliberately progressed the application in August when many people will be on leave or away from home.

It is clear that public participation has been severely compromised in this case.

**AN BORD PLEANÁLA**

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