

Ref: CO/23882

Date: 3rd September 2025

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications,
29-31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2,
D02 X285

**Re: Planning Application for Strategic Infrastructure Development under Section 37E of the
Planning and development Act (As Amended)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are engaged by Ballinla Wind Farm Ltd. (applicant) for the preparation of the design, planning and EIAR for a proposed Wind Energy Project within the townlands of Leitrim, Ballyfore Big, Ballyleakin, and Ballina (Geashill By), Co. Offaly.

The project has been the subject of a Pre-application Stage consultation for Strategic Infrastructure with An Coimisiún Pleanála (Ref: ABP-318203-23). An Coimisiún Pleanála has determined that this proposed project falls within the Strategic Infrastructure Development consent process under Section 37A(2)(a) and (b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. In confirming that this project is a Strategic Infrastructure Development project it has identified 18 prescribed bodies that have to be notified of the application for the proposed development. Accordingly, we are notifying you that the application has been lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála.

The following sets out the description of the proposed development:

- Seven Wind Turbine Generators (blade tip height 185m).
- Seven Wind Turbine foundations and hardstand areas.
- One electrical substation (110kV) including independent power producer (IPP) substation and wind farm operations compound with associated ancillary buildings, security fencing and all associated works.
- One LiDAR station based on the ground.
- Two new site entrances from the L5010.
- New and upgraded internal site access tracks.
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the proposed turbines to the proposed onsite substation.
- The TDR including temporary works on sections of the public road network and private lands along the turbine delivery route on the L-5006 and the junction of the R-402 and R-420.
- One temporary construction site compound and additional mobile welfare unit.
- One spoil deposition area.
- Landscaping.
- Associated surface water management systems.

ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Directors Peter Fay BSc CEng MIEI MStructE FConsEI | Paul Collins BE CEng MIEI MStructE | John Lee BE HDipSHWW CEng FIEI |
Brian Sayers BE MSc CEng MIEI | Ian Brosnan BE CEng MIEI MICE MStructE

Technical Directors Ken Fitzgerald BSc Surv Dip CEcon PG Dip Planning EIA CEM | David Aherne BE CEng MIEI MCIBSE

Associate Directors Tim Hurley BEng MEngSc CEng MIEI | Micheál Fenton BE CEng MIEI | Caitríona Fox BA MSc

Registered in Ireland as Malachy Walsh & Company Limited

Company Registration Number 133445 VAT Number 4726135H

Registered Office Park House, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, Ireland



The applicant is seeking a ten-year permission and an operational period of no less than 35 years from the date of commissioning of the entire Wind Farm. The substation and associated infrastructure is permanent.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompanies this application. The EIAR and NIS were completed with the added element of a proposed 8km grid connection to the Philipstown 110kV Substation, to be submitted into planning separately and in the future. The proposed grid connection will be within the townlands of Leitrim, Lumville, Ballinla, Clarkeville, Ballyfore Big, Ballyfore Little, Ballyeakin and Ballykilleen, in (Coolestown By) Co. Offaly.

A copy of the application may be viewed/downloaded on the following dedicated SID project website **ballinlawindfarmsid.ie** commencing on the (5th September 2025). A hard copy of the application can be made available if required.

You are advised that the An Coimisiún Pleanála may in respect of an application for permission decide to:

- (a) (i) grant the permission, or (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decisions and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or (iii) grant permission in respect of the proposed development (with or without specified modification of it of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions,
- or

- (b) refuse to grant the permission

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 relating to:

- i. the implications of the proposed development for the proposer planning and sustainable development, and
- ii. the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- iii. the likely significant effects or adverse effect on any European site, if the development is carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be received by An Coimisiún Pleanála not later than **5.30pm** on the (24th October 2025).

Should you have any queries in relation to the enclosed please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Graeme Thornton
for MWP