# County Development Plan 2022-2028 <br> Submission 

## Redacted - Personal Information

To whom it may concern,
I acknowledge the call for submissions to the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028.
I submit to you the following observations for consideration regarding the figw County Development Plan 2022-2028.
I an a resident concerued with elemeats of Chaptef 12 -Energy Section and in partionar the following wothich is contained within the chapter-

1. The zoning of the Scartaghan hegron for open consideradoh to the devclopment of when farms. (Bhue Kegion in Develophueat Map).
2. The zoning of extstug wind farous within the Scartagh region for repowering, hed Region in Developmext Map).

- The visual impace of wind turbines is not suitable to the area and not in keeping with its surroundings and would seriously injure the amentry of the area.

The nonse generated by turbines is not suitable for residential areas. Consjderation must be given to residential areas where occupants, and fatue occupants, may have learning difficulties or sensory issues as this has been proven to be detrimental.

The shadow flicker generated by turbines is not suitable for residential areas. Consideration must be given to residential areas where occupants, and future occipants, may have learning difficuities or sensory issues as this has been proven to be derimental.

Scartagin contains vast areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation for the fee Hartier. Knockeenamone is one of the regons currently being zoned as open to consideration for wind farm development, yet contains specific areas of conservation marked clearly in the Hen Harrier SPA Habitat Map. Bana and Mnockrun regons are both located within a 1 km radius of these speciai zones of conservation and all regions should be excluded from inclusion in any open consideratoon for wind farm development zone and for repowering of existing turbines. A. 250 m buffer zone for the Hen Harrier outside the specific designated areas of conservation is also entirely unacceptable.

Barna Bog is a kownousting and uesting site for Hen Harrier Circus cyaners, an Anzex: bird species protected under the Bird's Directive (Directive $2009 / 47 / \mathrm{EC}$. The bog is one of the most impoztant roosting sites for the species in lreland withas many as 21 Hen Harriers recorded roosting at the site in 2021 by IRD Duhallow Ecologists (Wike O'Connor pers comm.). Due to Bama Bog's close proximity to the Stacks to Mulaghereik Mountains. West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA, this winter roost site is crucial for the SPA to meet te conservation objectives

As well as the Hen Harrier, Barna Bog provides an important habitat for several other species of conservation interest including the liverwort species Pallavicinia lyellii, a Flora Protection Order (2015) Plant (Rory Hodds gers. comm.). There is also suitable habitat for the butterfly species Marsh Fritillary Euphydryas aurinia, which is protected under Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Barron, 2020).

- The destruction of Flora and Fauna to the Scartaglin region will be immense. The County Development Plan must take action to protect the flora and fauna of the region and provide public services to record the wildlife affected. Killarney is part of the UNESCO biosphere reserve and the county development plan is an immediate opportunity to show progress in this regard.

The destruction of water and carbon reservoirs will also be detrimental to the locality. The development plan must take action to protect the bogs and waterways of Kerry. The Brown Flask River (A tributary to the Flask River) runs through the Knockeenahone region. The Flask River is a Special Area of Conservation for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. The Backwater River is adjacent to all the regions highlighted for wind farm zoning in the Scartaglin region. The Blackwater River is also a Special Area of Conservation for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. Knockeenahone, Barn and Knockrour regions are all directly located within a 1 km radius of Brown Flask River and within 5 km of the Blackwater River and should be excluded from inclusion in any open consideration for wind farm development zone.

- Consideration must be given to the increased risk posed by the construction of large turbines. Roads that are not suitable for large vehicles, occupants in the area are at risk of turbine collapse, noise pollution, seasonal wildlife impact etc. Local roads and infrastructure cannot be allowed to be destroyed in the construction of turbine developments.
- Consideration must be given to towers and cabling infrastructure that will 'railroad' through the county and Scartaglin region. They will not be in keeping with its surroundings and would seriously injure the amenity of the area.
- The proximity of turbines to boundaries should be a minimum of ten times the blade tip height, as is common in many countries. The development plan must recognise the scale increase of a modern turbine since 2006, where modern turbines are now reaching heights of 200 m blade tip height.
- Kerry has sacrificed enough for the national renewable energy target. Kerry's land mass of $6.8 \%$ currently contributes $18 \%-22 \%$ of national wind turbine energy. For example, Kerry contributes 609 MW and Galway contributes 326MW ( $8.6 \%$ land mass), Clare 152 MW ( $4.9 \%$ land mass), Limerick 199 MW ( $3.9 \%$ land mass). Those three counties combined barely contribute ( 68 MW $(10 \%)$ in the difference) more than Kerry. The plan must consider the sacrifice imposed on residents.

The county plan must consider the economic and population changes of large developments within residential areas. The county development plan must also consider impact to rented housing. It is more difficult to rent a house with additional construction traffic and residential development and habitation in the region of Scartaglin would disintegrate massively due to the visual and noise impact of turbines.

The industrial wind turbine is too big and too close to residential areas within the Scartaglin region to be considered viable. These regions should be excluded for prospective zoning for open consideration to wind farm development within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028.


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