

Hi,

I would like to make a submission as follows

Renewable Energy

I ask that CCC rezone lands that have previously been designated as being suitable for Wind Energy developments. Wind turbines nowadays are 4 times the size of the "standard" wind turbine at the time of many of these zonings and therefore there is no way that that the zoning is still applicable from a suitability point of view.

CCC have recently and repeatedly turned down a planning application for a windfarm at Slieveacurry, near Miltown Malbay. The reasons for refusal makes one conclude that this site should no longer be deemed suitable for a wind farm. The only sensible course of action open to CCC is to now rezone this site as being "unsuitable" for wind energy developments.

The advent of offshore wind energy developments is also a huge factor that must be taken into consideration. Small communities should not be destroyed under the guise of attainment of wind energy targets when a far more efficient offshore option is now readily available.

I would ask CCC to look at their procedures with regard to enforcement when it comes to windfarms not complying with planning conditions. Since the SL Callan windfarm became operational in 2018, CCC have been in receipt of a multitude of complaints regarding likely breaches of planning conditions, mostly concerning noise levels emitted by turbines. There is widespread apathy among the affected communities as regards the will or ability of CCC to independently investigate these complaints. This is very understandable when one looks at the CCC course of action to date. A new, independent and robust system needs to be immediately enacted to confront windfarm developers. As it stands, there is a widespread public perception that planning authorities are subservient to these windfarm developers. This needs to change immediately if public confidence in CCC is to be restored in communities living in the shadows of windfarms.

Thanking You

Yours Sincerely

Patrick Lafferty, Gerardine Lafferty, Sinead Lafferty, Roisin Lafferty, Pdraig Lafferty