

Dear Ms Curley

Re: Objection to amended planning application-Major Development: P/2015/0218/F

I feel we should be protecting our local environment against investment-driven companies who wish to capitalise for their own financial gain on our greatest natural resource. This project will create a forest of steel in the Mournes and the industrialisation of the stunning and spectacular scenery of our area.

I am deeply opposed to the application and my objection is based on the following:
There should be an immediate embargo imposed upon the processing of all planning applications for wind farm and single wind turbine proposals until meaningful and up to date regulations have been drafted.

Shadow flicker is a problem that affects human health and those that suffer from epilepsy are particularly vulnerable. The safe set back distances of dwellings from wind turbines quoted by the wind industry at ten times the diameter of the rotor blades is, I believe, not based on scientific research and is totally inadequate.

The wind industry is primarily focused on profit maximisation and at present is not properly regulated. The applicable guidelines for the wind industry are ETSU-R-97; they are significantly out of date, not fit for purpose and in urgent need of review.

The United Kingdom as a whole has already met its requirement to produce 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

The proposed wind farm will be located in Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has identified the Mournes as one of nine key tourism destination areas. Outdoor recreation is at the heart of the future of sustainable development of the Mournes.

These turbines will be blight for generations to come. Even after their operational life of 25 years is over, we will be left with massive concrete and steel foundations littered across the land, which will never be removed.

The proposed wind farm will have significant detrimental impact upon the visual amenity and rural landscape character of the area. The turbines will be clearly visible for a distance of 20-25 miles away.

The proposed wind farm will have a significant detrimental effect on the peaceful quiet rural environment that residents of this area currently enjoy as a result of the noise pollution generated.

Wildlife habitats would be adversely affected during the construction phase and on a permanent basis. Gruggandoo is an Area of Special Scientific Interest (368) and adjoins the site of the farm. It is dominated by priority and protected species - upland heathland and particular grasslands and there is a high predicted collision risk for Red Kites.

The construction of the proposed wind farm will have a permanent adverse effect on the market value of property in the immediate area.

Policy RE1 requires this proposal must not result in any unacceptable adverse impact. This proposal will result in substantial unacceptable impacts upon human health, visual amenity, scenic rural character of the area, biodiversity, nature conservation and local natural resources.

If allowed the application will set a precedent for wind turbine development in the Mourne Area.

I trust you will take my genuine concerns seriously and reject this proposal.

Yours faithfully

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____