

**COUNCIL FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
AND THE COUNTRYSIDE**
An Advisory Council to the Department of the Environment

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1st October 2010

Mr C Drain
The Planning Service
Headquarters
Millennium House
17-25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7BN

Dear Chris

PLANNING APPLICATION - L/2008/1113/F
MOLLY MOUNTAIN - WINDFARM

This is a revision of an earlier application for a windfarm, involving 5 turbines rather than 7. Molly Mountain lies within LCA10, Slieve Russel, Derrylin and Kinawley, and is one of the principal summits in this LCA. PPS18 and the Supplementary Planning Guidelines should be applied to this application.

CNCC responded to the earlier proposal with concern over the effect the development would have on the landscape and visual amenity of this site. The SPG highlights this issue in several places eg under Landform, Skylines and settings, Visibility and Views and Amenity and Recreation. The SPG also points out that Molly Mountain is particularly important in terms of local landscape sensitivity due to the presence of particular landmark features. It concludes that 'Care should be taken to avoid adverse impacts on key viewpoints on the route of the Ulster Way on or near the summit of Molly Mountain'. CNCC also expressed concern about cumulative and transboundary issues associated with the Slieve Rushen windfarm and developments in Co Cavan.

Unfortunately we now feel that this landscape has become dominated by wind turbines, both in local terms and with regard to more distant views. We therefore believe that adding extra turbines at this site would be less damaging than starting new windfarms elsewhere in more important landscapes.

Yours sincerely



PATRICK CASEMENT
CHAIRMAN