

## Laura Crawford

---

**From:** Lonan McLaughlin  
**Sent:** 25 November 2025 11:39  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Fw: DAERA/25-606 - Planning Application on Benbradagh Mountain - Brishey Wind Farm (LA01/2023/0008/F)  
**Attachments:** NIEA Consultation - Benbradagh windfarm planning application.docx

To the planning officials and planning committee at Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council,

NIEA has demonstrated and maintain a complete lack of transparency in regards their consultation on the proposed Brishey windfarm on Benbradagh Mountain. I direct you to the attached email I sent to NIEA and their response to me in the forwarded email below.

NIEA's first consultation (22nd April 2024) recommended refusal stating that "the immense scale and nature of the proposal would have an unacceptable and significant adverse effect on landscape character, visual amenity and integrity of the Sperrin's AONB and the proposal is contrary to planning policy"

However on the 30th April 2025, the NIEA resubmitted their consultation saying they have "no concerns".

Upon asking the NIEA how they reached their conclusion, (because this has not been explained on their resubmission), they have refused to explain.

This complete lack of explanation regarding a major planning application is wrong as local residents have a right to know why information has not been disclosed to all stakeholders especially from a consultee as important as the NIEA.

I am wondering if the planning committee will be made aware of this issue?

This issue forms my first objection to the proposed Brishey windfarm application.

Secondly,

I would like to further object to the Brishey windfarm on Benbradagh in regards red lights at night.

As the proposed windfarm will be located on a very prominent location within the Sperrin's AONB, it is very important that the windfarm blends into the surroundings as much as possible. This is relevant in night as much as day. Red lights are a source of light pollution.

Other windfarms nearby, i.e. Rigged Hill windfarm, had a condition in which the turbines will be fitted with a sonar which will alert aircraft to their position. This therefore eliminated the need for red lights.

I am wondering if this also applies for the proposed windfarm at Brishey? If not, I object to the proposed windfarm on the grounds of red lights at night.

Regards

Lonan Thomas McLaughlin

---

**From:** DAERA Development Plan Team

**Sent:** Monday 3 November 2025 14:30

**To:**

**Cc:** NIEA Information Requests

**Subject:** DAERA/25-606 - Planning Application on Benbradagh Mountain - Brishey Wind Farm (LA01/2023/0008/F)

Dear Lanan McLaughlin,

Thank you for your letter and email dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

As the planning application for Brishey Wind Farm (LA01/2023/0008/F) is undecided and open for consultation it would be inappropriate for NIEA NED to comment at this stage as to why there has been a change to 'no concerns' in the most recent consultation.

The consultation responses issued April 2024, and April 2025 explain NED's position and associated advice provided to the planning authority. A rebuttal statement to our advice can be submitted via the planning portal or the planning authority, in this case Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Regards

Michael Gillespie

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency**

**Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

**Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED**

To the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency,

I am emailing you in regards a new windfarm planning application on Benbradagh Mountain, Roe Valley, County Derry. Planning Application – LA01/2023/0008F

The NIEA submitted a consultation on the 22<sup>ND</sup> April 2024 recommending refusal to this planning application, saying:

“NIEA CC&L Planning Landscape Team considers that the immense scale and nature of this proposal, would have an unacceptable and significant adverse effect on the landscape character, visual amenity and integrity of the Sperrin AONB and that the proposal is contrary to associated planning policy. If planning permission is considered regardless, then NED has other concerns with this proposal.”

However on the 30th April 2025 the NIEA resubmitted their consultation, saying:

“Natural Environment Division (NED) has considered the impacts of the proposal on protected landscapes, designated sites and other natural heritage interests and, on the basis of the information provided, has no concerns, subject to conditions.”

As a resident of the Roe Valley I am very concerned about this new windfarm and its location on Benbradagh Mountain given it being a very prominent feature of the landscape as well as it being the second highest peak of the Sperrins.

Considering the reasons of refusal in your first consultation (as stated above), why has there been a change to ‘no concerns’ in your most recent consultation?

Yours Sincerely,

Lonan Thomas McLaughlin