



23 December 2013

Mr Frank Gallagher,  
Planning Section,  
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government,  
Custom House,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Mr Gallagher,

I refer to your letter of 25 October 2013 in relation to wind turbines and health including noise/shadow flicker.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer (DCMO) conducted a literature review with regard to the *Effects of Noise from Wind Turbines on Human Health*. This review also considered the effect of shadow flicker and blade glint on human health.

In her review, the DCMO concluded that:

“wind turbines do not represent a threat to public health. However there is a consistent cluster of symptoms related to wind turbine syndrome which occurs in a number of people in the vicinity of industrial wind turbines. There are specific risk factors for this syndrome and people with these risk factors experience symptoms. These people must be treated appropriately and sensitively as these symptoms can be very debilitating”.

I understand that the DCMO has also discussed the matter with you and has suggested that you might consider engaging experts in this field along the lines of the approach adopted when the issue of the health effect of electromagnetic fields was being considered by your Department. In that case, an expert group was established and they reported on the matter in 2007.

Yours sincerely,



Gregory Canning  
Food and Environmental Health Unit