

Exploration and Mining Division  
Department of Communication,  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Beggars Bush  
Haddington Road  
Dublin 4

Name

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Address

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Ref Number: MA.286/1

Date:

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Exploration of Mineral Deposits in Inishowen

## **Letter of Objection**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the possible granting of a prospecting licence for townlands in Inishowen. The grounds for my objection are that Inishowen is a rural area with poor infrastructure and water as a scarce resource. As well as being mostly farmland, it is a tourist and recreational area and as such needs to be protected from any possible damage or degradation of the environment.

**I object to a company prospecting in Inishowen as the environment would not take the consequences of any potential mining.**

### **1) Inishowen Infrastructure: roads and water**

The majority of roads in Inishowen and in particular around the Town lands named in the advert are small, windy, narrow roads that will not take any kind of large vehicles. The roads are already in poor condition. They will not stand up to heavy traffic.

Water is scarce. People use their own wells and springs or group water schemes. These cannot be endangered by over use, disruption or contamination.

Mining would bring unacceptable noise and upheaval to a small, rural community.

### **2) Inishowen's main income generator in future will be tourism**

Inishowen people have already taken all the hits of the decline in fishing, farming and the clothing industry. Its main source of revenue is tourism. Derry and Letterkenny have been identified by the Government as a corridor for development, eventually becoming one urban area. People living in this area already use Inishowen for their recreation and increasing numbers will look to use it in the future. Tourism, whether local, national or international, relies on the natural environment being maintained at its highest level. It relies on the infrastructure being of good quality. Mining in Inishowen threatens the communities' livelihoods and quality of life.

### **3) Inishowen's Historical Heritage**

Inishowen has a huge range of historical sites ranging from standing stones, tombs, mass rocks, Celtic crosses, rock art and castles. Many of these could be developed and maintained as historical sites for people to visit. Mining must not be allowed to damage or threaten any of these sites.

### **4) Inishowen's Existing Classifications**

There are areas of Inishowen that already have classifications relating to the protection of and the scientific interest of its beauty, wild life and countryside. These classifications need to be upheld.

Yours sincerely,