

Board Direction BD-012291-23 ABP-312727-22

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 30/05/2023.

The Board decided to refuse permission, generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to:

- (a) the height and scale of the proposed development, which substantially exceeds that of the existing structure,
- (b) the location of the proposed development in Castlerea and Upper Suck Valley Landscape Character Area, where the area is designated of 'High Value' and alongside a designated tourist route,
- (c) lack of clarity regarding the potential for co-location on alternative telecommunication structures in the area and the demand for co-location on the proposed structure, and
- (d) the guidelines relating to Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures which were issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to planning authorities in July 1996,

it is considered that the proposed development would be visually obtrusive in a sensitive landscape, would set an inappropriate precedent for the proliferation of telecommunication structures, and would be contrary to the policies of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 in respect of landscape character areas and telecommunications (NH 10.25, ITC 7.63, ITC 7.65 and ITC 7.66). The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Board Member Earnon James Kelly Date: 30/05/2023