

An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

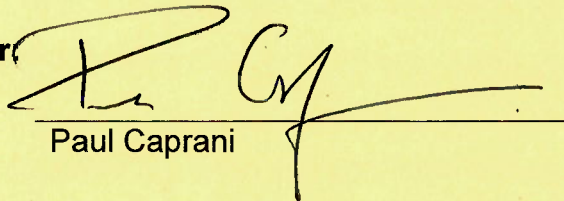
**Direction**  
**CD-021522-25**  
**ABP-322130-25**

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 09/12/2025.

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

**Planning**

**Commissioner:**

  
Paul Caprani

**Date:** 09/12/2025

**DRAFT WORDING FOR ORDER**

**Reasons and Considerations**

1. Policy Objective ICT 4 of the planning authority, as set out in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, requires co-location of antennae support structures and sites where feasible, and for operators to submit documentary evidence as to the non-feasibility of this option in proposals for new structures. Policy Objective ICT 5 requires best practice in both siting and design in the interest of visual amenity while DM Standard 42 also requires applicants for new facilities to satisfy the Council that they have made a reasonable effort to share facilities or to locate facilities in clusters. Having regard to the presence of another telecommunications support structure in close proximity to the site and the lack of documentary evidence demonstrating its non-feasibility for co-location

or clustering, it is considered that, on the basis of the submissions made in connection with the application and appeal, that possible opportunities for co-location or clustering do not exist in the surrounding area. Furthermore in the case where the applicant can demonstrate that co-location is not feasible, the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the subject site is the most suitable site for a mast in the area, having particular regard to the site's proximity to Lurga National School. Accordingly, the proposed development would lead to an unnecessary proliferation of similar structures, which would be contrary to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities relating to Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July 1996 and the provisions of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. The drawings submitted with the application and appeal indicate that a new access track is proposed as part of the application, however these works do not form part of the application boundary for which permission is sought. There is a lack of information and certainty regarding this proposal including the layout, gradient, construction, finish and surface water management associated with the proposed access and track to serve the development. In this regard, there is an absence of certainty to enable determination of the scale and extent of the proposed development and to assess impacts and interactions therefrom. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.