



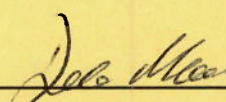
An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Commission Direction
CD-000845
PL-500961-GY-26

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 07 July 2026.

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

Planning Commissioner:



Declan Moore

Date:

9th day of July 2026

DRAFT WORDING FOR ORDER

Reasons and Considerations

1. Policy Objective 1 (Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of Designated Sites, Habitats and Species) of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 requires the protection of the integrity of European Sites, while Policy Objective NHB 3 (Protection of European Sites) requires that no projects giving rise to significant impacts on European sites arising from their land take, resource requirements or from any other effects shall be permitted.

Having regard to the location of the site, together with adjoining land, within Inisheer Special Area of Conservation (001275), it is considered that the proposed development would result in the direct loss of European Dry Heaths [4030] and Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] habitat, which are included on Annex I of the European Union Habitats Directive of 1992.

Notwithstanding the above and having regard to proposed habitat translocation and enhancement measures set out in the NIS to compensate from habitat loss as well as the absence of an identified compensation/recipient site on which to locate the translocated habitat, the absence of a Habitat Management Plan to effectively manage the translocated habitat and the absence of an assessment of in-combination effects to identify potential cumulative impacts which may affect

the translocated habitat, the Commission is not satisfied, on the basis of the submissions made in connection with the planning application and the appeal, that adequate information has been provided on the impact of the proposed development within the Annexed habitat and the resulting implications for wildlife.

The Commission, therefore, is unable to ascertain, as required by Regulation 27(3) of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997, that the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site and it is considered that the proposed development would contravene Policy Objective NHB 1 and Policy Objective NHB 3 of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. Policy Objective ICT 4 (Co-location of antennae) of 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 (Siting and Design of Telecommunications Infrastructure) 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, possible opportunities for co-location or clustering exist in the

area. 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 as well as the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.