

An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2015

South Dublin County

Planning Register Reference Number: SD15A/0241

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 06S.245662

APPEAL by Vodafone Ireland Limited care of 4Site Telecoms of 4Site House, Keating Road, Raheen Business Park, Limerick against the decision made on the 29th day of September, 2015 by South Dublin County Council to refuse permission in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Erection of six number telecommunications antennas, associated RRU units, two number link dishes and associated ancillary equipment on existing rooftop, including ancillary site works, and proposed equipment cabinets located in existing lift shaft equipment room under, at Tallaght Hospital (The Adelaide and Meath Hospital), Tallaght, Dublin.

DECISION

GRANT permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the said plans and particulars based on the reasons and considerations under and subject to the condition set out below.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

- (a) the national strategy regarding the improvement of mobile communications services,
- (b) the guidelines for Planning Authorities on “Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures” issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July, 1996,
- (c) Circular Letter PL 07/12 issued by the Minister under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Acts to update certain sections of the “Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures” Guidelines,
- (d) the policies of the planning authority in relation to telecommunications networks, as set out in the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2010 - 2016, including its strategy to facilitate the enhancement of the telecommunications infrastructure to maintain economic competitiveness,
- (e) the analysis undertaken of potential alternatives to the proposed development, and the stated need to improve the quality of telecommunications services in this area, including the submission from the Director of ICT of the Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght, provided with the appeal documentation, and
- (f) the nature, rooftop location and modest scale of the proposed development,

it is considered that, subject to compliance with the condition set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity and would not be prejudicial to public health. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to refuse permission, the Board had regard to the stated need to improve the quality of telecommunications services in this area, including the services on the N81 National road, regional roads, within the hospital campus itself, and to the analysis undertaken of potential alternatives in particular. The Board noted the Inspector's concern that the maps submitted by the applicant did not indicate a significant quantitative increase in coverage area; however, the Board was satisfied that the increase in service quality, and reduction in congestion on surrounding telecommunications sites, was clearly described in the application and appeal documentation on file. The Board accepted the applicant's assessment of the unsuitability of the existing DN144 site, and did not share the Inspector's view in relation to the implications for public safety of improving telecommunications services in the vicinity of the road network.

The Board noted that the planning authority had decided to refuse permission on the basis that the proposed development would constitute a material contravention of the development plan. In making its decision, the Board had regard to the guidelines for Planning Authorities on "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures" issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July, 1996, as amended by Circular Letter PL 07/12, and was satisfied that, by virtue of Section 37(2)(b)(iii) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, it was not constrained in granting permission for the development.

CONDITION

The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2016.