

An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Board Order ABP-315529-23

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**Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022**

**Planning Authority: Galway County Council**

**Planning Register Reference Number: 22/61021**

**Appeal** by Ruth Hegarty of Seefin, Craughwell, County Galway against the decision made on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022 by Galway County Council to grant permission subject to conditions to Hibernian Cellular Networks Limited care of Jennings O'Donnovan and Partners Limited of Finisklin Business Park, Sligo in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

**Proposed Development:** Erection of a 36 metre high lattice support structure carrying antennas and dishes together with associated ground-based equipment containers all enclosed in security fencing in the townland of Seefin, Craughwell, County Galway.

### 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 conditions set out below.

## Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to:

- (a) the Department of the Environment and Local Government Section 28 Statutory Guidelines; Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 1996, as updated by circular letter PL 07/12 in 2012,
- (b) the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028,
- (c) the low landscape sensitivity of the area,
- (d) the nature and scale of the proposed telecommunication structure,
- (e) the existing use of the site, and the pattern of development in the area,
- (f) the demonstrated need for the telecommunications infrastructure at this location,
- (g) the visual impact assessments and technical justifications report submitted by the applicant including the mast height rationale, and
- (h) matters raised by the appellant and the observers including visual impact assessments.

the Board considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not be visually intrusive or seriously injure the amenities of the area or the residential amenities of properties in the vicinity, would not be prejudicial to public health and would, therefore be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Board noted that the development is a project for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. However, the Board concluded that the proposed development does not fall within a class of development set out in Part 1 or Part 2, Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and therefore agreed with its Inspector that no preliminary examination or Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

## Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the Planning Authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the Planning Authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. The overall height of the proposed lattice frame telecommunications mast shall be reduced by six metres and the overall height shall not exceed 30 metres inclusive of drums and antennas. Revised drawings showing compliance with these requirements shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** In the interests of visual and residential amenity.

3. The developer shall provide and make available at reasonable terms, the proposed support structure for the provision of mobile telecommunications antenna of third-party licenced telecommunications operators.

**Reason:** In the interest of avoidance of multiplicity of telecommunications structures in the area, in the interest of visual amenity and proper planning and sustainable development.

4. Within six months of the cessation of the use of the telecommunications structure, all structures shall be removed from the site, and the site shall be reinstated at the operator's expense in accordance with a scheme to be agreed in writing with the planning authority as soon as practicable.

**Reason:** In the interest of protecting the landscape.

5. Details of the proposed colour scheme for the telecommunications structure and ancillary structures shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development.

**Reason:** In the interest of the visual amenities of the area.

6. A low intensity fixed red obstacle light shall be fitted as close to the top of the mast as practicable and shall be visible from all angles in azimuth.

**Reason:** In the interest of public safety.

7. No advertisement or advertisement structure shall be erected or displayed on the proposed structure or its appendages or within the curtilage of the site.

**Reason:** In the interest of the visual amenities of the area.

8. Site development and building works shall be carried out only between the hours of 0800 to 1900 Mondays to Fridays inclusive, between 0800 to 1400 hours on Saturdays and not at all on Sundays and public holidays. Deviation from these times will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances where prior written approval has been received from the Planning Authority.

**Reason:** In order to safeguard the residential amenities of property in the vicinity.

9. (i) Prior to commencement of development, a traffic management plan for the construction phase of the development shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority. It shall include details of construction traffic routing, the number of trips generated for deliveries and collections of materials from the site, provision for a storage compound and parking provision within the site, wheel washing and

measures for control of dust and other pollutant materials, the installation of which shall be the responsibility of the developer.

- (ii) Sight distance triangles shall be maintained and kept free from vegetation or obstructions that would reduce the minimum visibility required.
- (iii) All necessary measures shall be taken by the developer to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris on adjoining roads during the course of the works.

**Reason:** In the interest of traffic safety and to preserve residential amenity.

10. The developer shall facilitate the archaeological appraisal of the site and shall provide for the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features which may exist within the site. In this regard, the developer shall:

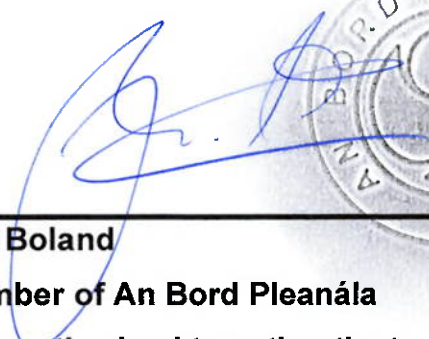
- (a) notify the planning authority in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of any site operation including hydrological and geotechnical investigations relating to the proposed development, and
- (b) employ a suitably-qualified archaeologist prior to the commencement of development. The archaeologist shall assess the site and monitor all site development works.

The assessment shall address the following issues:

- (i) the nature and location of archaeological material on the site, and
- (ii) the impact of the proposed development on such archaeological material.

A report, containing the results of the assessment, shall be submitted to the planning authority and, arising from this assessment, the developer shall agree in writing with the planning authority details regarding any further archaeological requirements including, if necessary, archaeological excavation prior to commencement of construction works.

**Reason:** In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the area and to secure the preservation in-situ or by record and protection of any archaeological remains that may exist on the site.



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

Dated this *12<sup>TH</sup>* day of *September* 2024