

Board Order ABP- 315922-22

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Kerry County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 22/1235

Appeal by Eircom Limited (t/a eir) care of Towercom Limited of Usher House, Main Street, Dundrum, Dublin against the decision made on the 30th day of January, 2023 by Kerry County Council to refuse permission for the proposed development.

Proposed Development: Erect a 15 metre high monopole telecommunications structure with antennas, dishes and associated equipment all at Eir Exchange, Knocknagoshel, County Kerry.

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the reasons and considerations set out below.

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Reasons and Considerations

The 'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in July 1996 state, inter alia, that only as a last resort should freestanding masts be located within or in the immediate surrounds of smaller towns or villages (Section 4.3, page 8 of said Guidelines). The Board is not satisfied, based on the information submitted at application and appeal stages, that possible alternative locations were appropriately considered and, therefore, the Board cannot be satisfied, in this instance, that the site chosen constitutes 'a last resort'. The proposed development would be contrary to the said Guidelines and would conflict with Policy KCDP 14-79 of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 which seeks to achieve a balance between facilitating the provision of telecommunication infrastructure and sustaining residential amenity. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Board considered 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 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and therefore no preliminary examination, screening for environmental impact assessment is required.'

Tom Rabbette

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

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Dated this ackslash day of

2023