

Commission Order ABP-321251-24

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Roscommon County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 2460403

APPEAL by Friends of the Irish Environment care of FP Logue Solicitors of Lenin House, Rear 25 Strand Street Great, Dublin against the decision made on the 18th day of October 2024, by Roscommon County Council to grant, subject to conditions, a permission to Towercom Limited care of Charterhouse, Unit 2 HQ, Rear 27 Market Street, Listowel, County Kerry, in accordance with the plans and particulars submitted to the said Council.

Proposed Development: Permission for the erection of a 24-metre lattice telecommunications support structure on a one-metre-high raised foundation (providing new overall height of 26 metres to top of lightning finials) together with associated antennas, dishes, and ground-based equipment all enclosed in security fencing and to remove the existing 15 metre lattice telecommunications structure. This application, if granted permission, will supercede the earlier planning permission for the development of a 20-metre lattice structure and associated equipment at the same site (Planning authority register reference: 20/356), Eir Exchange, Circular Road, Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon.

Decision

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

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the lack of demonstrated engagement with ESB Telecoms in relation to utilising the existing telecommunications structure at the nearby ESB Compound and why it is not possible to co-locate there, and in the absence of an adequate assessment of alternative sites in the area, including of a nearby high building, it is considered that it has not been demonstrated that the proposed development would accord with the 'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines for Planning Authorities' issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in 1996 (as updated by Circular Letter PL 07/12) as required by Policy Objective ITC 7.63 of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Commission considered that the proposed development is a project for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. However, the Commission 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, or Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

Mary Gurrie

Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate the seal of the Commission.

Dated this 23 day of July

2025.