



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

Commission Order  
ABP-322130-25

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**Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022**

**Planning Authority: Galway County Council**

**Planning Register Reference Number: 25/60005**

**Appeal** by Annette McCabe of Rockhill, Lurga, Gort, County Galway against the decision made on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025 by Galway County Council to grant permission, subject to conditions, to APW UK WIP Limited trading as Icon Tower care of Chris McGrath, Augustine House, Merchants Road, Galway for the proposed development.

**Proposed Development:** The development consists of the erection of a 24-metre-high telecommunications lattice structure together with antennas, dishes and associated telecommunications equipment, all enclosed by security fencing at Lurga, Gort, County Galway.

## **Decision**

**REFUSE** permission for the above proposed development for the reasons and considerations set out below.

## Reasons and Considerations

1. 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, that possible opportunities for co-location or clustering do not exist in the surrounding area. Furthermore in the case where the applicant can demonstrate that co-location is not feasible, the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the subject site is the most suitable site for a mast in the area, having particular regard to the site's proximity to Lurga National School. 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 and the provisions of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. The drawings submitted with the application and appeal indicate that a new access track is proposed as part of the application, however these works do not form part of the application boundary for which permission is sought. There is a lack of information and certainty regarding this proposal including the layout, gradient, construction, finish and surface water management associated with the proposed access and track to serve the development. In this regard, there is an absence of certainty to enable determination of the scale and extent of the proposed development and to assess impacts and interactions therefrom. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



**Paul Caprani**

**Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún  
Pleanála**

**duly authorised to authenticate  
the seal of the Commission.**

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025

