

An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

**Commission Order
PL-501160-GY-26**

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Galway County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 2660083

Appeal by Towercom Limited against the decision made on the 19th day of March 2026, by Galway County Council to grant, subject to conditions, a permission to Phoenix Tower Ireland III Limited in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

Proposed Development: To install a 21-metre monopole type telecommunications support structure, carrying antenna and dishes enclosed within a 2.4-metre-high fenced compound together with associated ground equipment cabinets and associated site works, including an access track within the grounds all at Farrannamartin, Cloontooa, Tuam, Tuam Celtic AFC, 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 the nature, scale, design and siting of the proposed development, comprising a 21-metre-high monopole telecommunications structure with compound and related ground equipment, on lands zoned for Community Facilities where 'Utilities and Public Service Installations' are open for consideration, to the provisions of the Galway County Development Plan 2023-2029 and specifically DM Standard 42 (Telecommunications Masts), Policy Objectives ICT 6 (Visual Impact and Antennae Support Structures), ICT 5 (Siting and Design of Telecommunications Infrastructure), ICT 4 (Co location of Antennae) and specifically ICT 3 (Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures) which seeks to ensure that orderly development of telecommunications throughout the county in accordance with the requirements of the Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG, 1996 and any subsequent revisions, along with Circular PL 07/12 on Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures and the Climate Action Plan 2025, and in particular Section 10.1.8 (Digital Transformation) which supports the national digital transformation framework and recognises the importance of this transformation to achieve Ireland's climate targets, it is considered that the proposed development would be in accordance with national policy for telecommunications infrastructure and the current Galway County Development Plan 2023 – 2029. The Commission considered that, subject to compliance with the following conditions, the proposed development would not adversely impact the character of the area and would not seriously injure the visual or residential amenities of the area, and would, therefore, be in accordance with 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.

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. Details of the proposed colour scheme for the telecommunications structure, ancillary structures and fencing 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.

3. Within three months of the completion of the construction, the access road shall be cleared and covered with the natural surface in the vicinity of the road (soil, grass, and so forth). Details of compliance with this condition shall be submitted for the written approval of the planning authority.

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

4. 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.

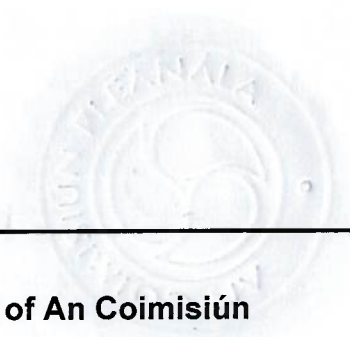
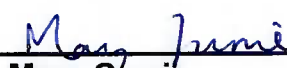
Reason: To facilitate the colocation of telecommunications infrastructure in accordance with local, regional and national policy.

5. In the event of the telecommunications structure and ancillary structures hereby permitted ceasing to operate for a period of six months, the structures shall be removed, and the site shall be reinstated within six months of their removal. Details regarding the removal of the structures and the reinstatement of the site shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing, with the planning authority within three months of the structures ceasing to operate, and the site shall be reinstated in accordance with the agreed details at the operator's expense.

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

6. The developer shall pay to the planning authority a financial contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority that is provided or intended to be provided by or on behalf of the authority in accordance with the terms of the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The contribution shall be paid prior to commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate and shall be subject to any applicable indexation provisions of the Scheme at the time of payment. Details of the application of the terms of the Scheme shall be agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of such agreement, the matter shall be referred to An Coimisiún Pleanála to determine the proper application of the terms of the Scheme.

Reason: It is a requirement of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that a condition requiring a contribution in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Act be applied to the permission.



Mary Gurrie

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

Dated this 13 day of August 2026