

The Planning Officer,
Planning Department,
Dunlaoghaire - Rathdown County Council
County Hall
Marine Rd
Dunlaoghaire
Co. Dublin

Date:

5th August 2022

Re:

Section 254 Application- Proposed Telecommunications Streetworks Solution

Applicant:

Cignal Infrastructure Ltd., Suite 309, Q House, 76 Furze Road, Sandyford

Industrial Estate, Dublin 18.

Site Name:

Stillorgan

Location:

Grass verge along Stillorgan Rd, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Cignal Infrastructure Ltd. ("Cignal") please find attached application under Section 254 (1) (g) subsection 5 (A) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, which provides for the installation of communications infrastructure under licence from the Authority. We have included plans and other information concerning the requirement, position, design and capacity of the structure as outlined in Section 254 (3). We are happy to provide additional information on request.

Background

The applicant, Cignal is a company of Cellnex, which is a European Telecommunications infrastructure provider. Cignal are a registered Infrastructure Provider for the Communications Industry with over 1800 sites around Ireland supporting mobile and broadband communications. Cignal provide Tower, Mast, Roof Top and Streetworks Solutions for the expanding requirements of the Licenced Operators including EIR, Vodafone and Three.

Cignal is authorised by ComReg to provide Electronic Communications Networks and Services, which allows them to apply for a licence under section 254(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 for the establishment of over ground electronic communications

infrastructure and any associated physical infrastructure. Please see attached a Certificate of Authorisation for your information.

The Requirement

Working closely with mobile network Licenced Operator Eir, Cignal have identified the subject site as a known blackspot for mobile and wireless broadband. A specific solution to address the deficit in coverage has been identified and approved by the mobile network Licenced Operators.

The Proposal

With reference to the attached plans you will note that it is proposed to provide a 18m high Smart Streetpole Solution in the specified location. See below a photograph of a similar Smart Streetpole and cabinet installed in Drummartin Road in July 2021. This was installed under a Section 254 Licence granted by DLR Co Co.



Fig 1. Existing Smart Streetpole Solution as erected in Drummartin Road, Kilmacud, D14

The street pole has an approx. diameter of 324mm and will be galvanised and painted in finish up to 14.3m in height. Above the 14.3m height an antenna will be mounted to a finishing height of up to 18m. The antenna will be shrouded by a 406mm sheath to match the pole.

The pole would be accompanied by an Operator Cabinet specifically located in a position agreeable to the local authority engineers. (Refer to detailed drawings attached). The

antenna and structure are designed to blend in with the streetscape, are Irish made and will provide instant 4G coverage.

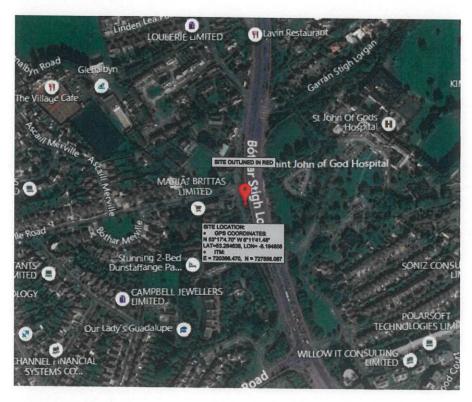
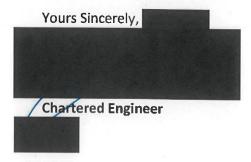


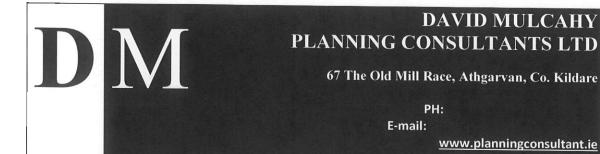
Fig 2. Aerial View Site Location

Please find attached the following documents in respect of the Section 254 Application.

- Planning Report by David Mulcahy Planning Consultant
- Sepa Transfer Confirmation of payment
- Licence Application Drawings
- Com Reg Map
- Visual Impact Assessment Photomontages
- Services Drawings
- Cignal Com Reg Authorization
- o Eir Mobile ICNIRP Compliance Statement

We trust you find the attached in order. Please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require any further information. We would be obliged if you would acknowledge receipt of the application and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.





PLANNING STATEMENT

to support s.254 licence application for

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Company No: 493 133 Directors:

at

STILLORGAN ROAD, STILLORGAN, CO. DUBLIN

Client: Cignal Infrastructure Ltd.

5th August 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd have been instructed by **Cignal Infrastructure Ltd**¹ to prepare a planning statement to support a Section 254 licence application for a telecommunication structure at Stillorgan Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

The purpose of this report is to describe the planning context including receiving environment, planning history, planning policies and objectives, outline the development to be retained and demonstrate how the proposal accords with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

This report should be read in conjunction with the drawings prepared by **Jason Redmond Associates**, **Consulting Engineers** who are the agents for this application. All correspondence should be sent to Jason Redmond Associates².

Note: all underlined italic text is author's emphasis. All maps are orientated due north.

¹ Suite 311, Q House, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, D18 YV50.

² Cignal Infrastructure Ltd., C/O Jason Redmond Associates, 5 Lismard, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

2.0 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location

The site is located on the west side of the Stillorgan Road near the junction with Merville Road. Please refer to the site location map submitted with the application.

2.2 Description

The site currently consists of a grass verge.

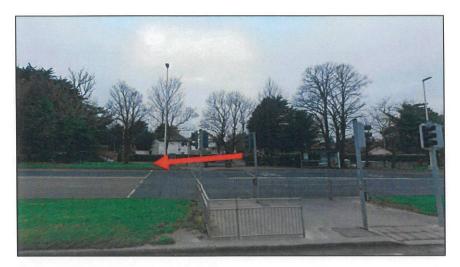


Fig No.1 Photograph of subject site.



Fig No.2 Aerial photograph with approximate location of site indicated.

2.3 Ownership

The site is located on land owned by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

2.4 Adjoining Land Uses

There is a grass verge to the south of the site and a grass verge to the north which quickly gives way to a public footpath. To the west there is a grass verge with a public road beyond (Glenalbyn Road or St. Bridgit's Church Road). To the east there is a public road (Stillorgan Road).

There are a number of tall slender street lights in the vicinity.

There are commercial buildings located approximately 28m to the west of the site.

The closest dwellings dwelling to the west are all in excess of 50m from the site and none face toward the site.

3.0 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Description

The proposal consists of an 18m Alpha 2.0 streetpole with 1no. 3.7m Alpha 2.0 antenna at azimuths TBC° & 1no. Ø300mm dish (to be included only if no fibre infrastructure in area), along with ancillary cabinet (1.649m high x 1.168m wide x 0.793 deep).

If acceptable to Dun Laoighaire-Rathdown County Council, the existing light pole will be removed and the existing lamp arm will be re-used on new smart streetpole to match the existing mounting height.

Refer to drawings and CGI images prepared by Jason Redmond Associates, Consulting Engineers for further details.

3.2 Technical Justification

3.2.1 Objective of Search Ring Area

The search ring, or area within which a telecommunications installation is required in order to meet the search ring objectives, is an area of c. 250 metres in diameter. The site is required in order to improve network coverage in the area. It has been identified by radio engineers that an installation within the search ring will bring required coverage to the coverage black spot, subject to a site-specific assessment and radio clearance - see diagram of search ring below.

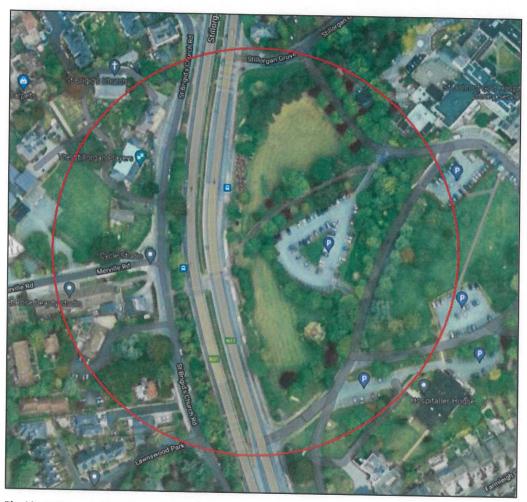


Fig No.3 Search Ring for subject site.

3.2.2 Reason why location was chosen:

The location on Stillorgan Road was chosen because of the following:

- It's within the Search Ring coverage footprint.
- There is adequate space to locate a street works solution and cabinet.
- There is fibre located nearby to ensure connectivity into the network.
- No overhead cables located at the proposed location.
- The location will not interfere with existing services.

Eir are upgrading the network in Dublin to provide customers with good quality voice and high-speed data services. As part of Eir Ltd licensing requirements and the continuing rollout of their 3G and 4G network, Eir needs to retain a site in Stillorgan after the existing site was unable to be upgraded.

Without a site in this part of Stillorgan, parts of this area will suffer a severe degradation in mobile voice and data services which leads to poor mobile coverage and as a result there would be a large number of dropped / blocked calls and poor data sessions which will also possibly limit people's ability to work from home on the Eir network in this area if we are unable to improve Eir's coverage in the area. Areas that will suffer will be the Busy N11, Merville Road, Cedarmount and Dunstaffange.

3.2.3 Coverage Map

The coverage maps below are self-explanatory. The do-nothing approach would result in a continued deficit in indoor/in car coverage in addition to outdoor mobile and wireless broadband cover over a significant section of the subject urban environment. The do something approach will bring full indoor/outdoor coverage to a significant splay of residential and business premises in this area and surrounding environs.

Figure 4 below demonstrates the existing indoor around the site.

Figure 5 demonstrates the predicated indoor coverage levels, which will result if the proposed LA is granted (blue area). This represents a substantial increase in indoor coverage service levels in this area.

Figure 6 demonstrates comparison between existing coverage (red) with proposed coverage (blue) with new Cignal site.

It is respectfully submitted that the coverage maps below clearly demonstrate the significance of the proposed installation with respect of the telecommunications network.

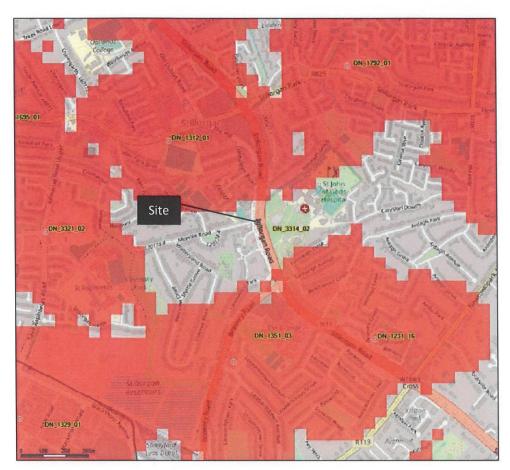


Figure 4: Existing Indoor coverage footprint in the area without Cignal site.

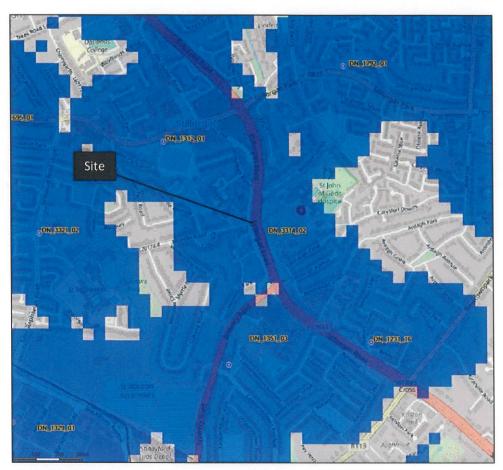


Figure 5: Predicted indoor coverage (blue) with new Cignal Site.

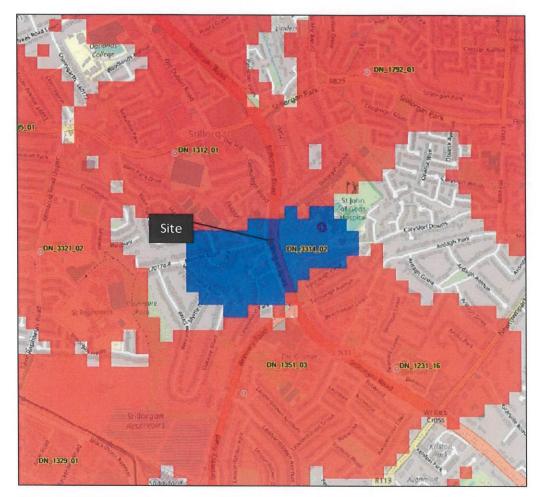


Figure 6: Comparison between existing coverage (red) and proposed (blue)

3.2.4 Comreg Map/Policy

The following map sets out the existing Comreg Sites in this area. Please refer to https://siteviewer.comreg.ie/#explore.

The maps below show there is a notable absence of telecommunication infrastructure in the vicinity of the subject site.

It should be noted that telecommunications traffic through urban/commercial areas require more capacity and therefore more infrastructure, given the smaller spatial footprint of search areas and higher development densities in association

with higher volumes of radio traffic (owing to modern technologies and devices not limited to mobile phone devises) through any individual radio cell.

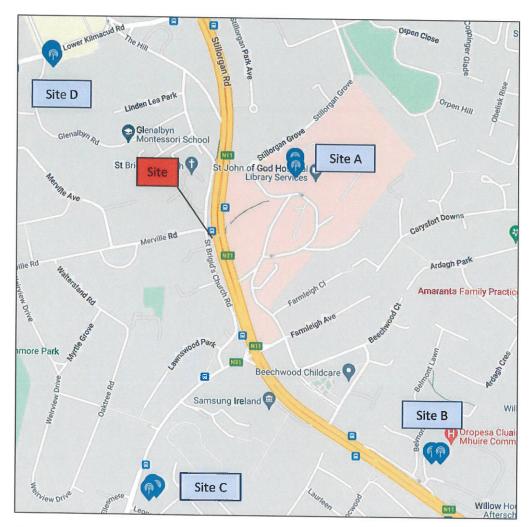


Fig. No.7 Comreg Maps of <u>closest</u> Existing Sites in General Area.

3.2.5 Alternative sites

Please refer to the above Comreg Map under figure 7 above, which sets out the other relevant Infrastructure in the subject general area of Stillorgan Road, Co. Dublin. It must be noted that all of the sites identified are situated outside the required search ring, which has a diameter of c.250 metres.

As all of the nearest sites in a radial pattern surrounding the proposed development are outside of the required search ring, sharing of facilities on other installations, outside of the required search ring will not address the coverage objectives of the subject search ring. However, in the interest of demonstrating other sites in the broader area for assessment purposes by the planning authority, the following table indicates the <u>closest</u> established sites within a 2 km radius and also presents the associated 'Discounted Reasons':

Site:	Name of Site (Comreg):	Approx. Distance from Site:	Details/Discounted Reason(s):
A	METEOR 3314; THREE_DU0868; VODAFONE_DN179	240m	Eir is already located at this location and will be decommissioning the existing infrastructure due to limitations associated with necessary updates. The proposed development will be used to replace the existing site's coverage area.
В	METEOR 1231; THREE_DU0087; VODAFONE_DN292	700m	Site is significantly outside of the required search ring, therefore there is no benefit in adding equipment at this location towards the end of achieving current required search ring objectives. Eir is already positioned at this site therefore equipment at this location would not address the service needs of the subject search ring.
С	METEOR 1351; THREE_DU1557; VODAFONE_DN353	603m	Site is significantly outside of the required search ring, therefore there is no benefit in adding equipment at this location towards the end of achieving current required search ring objectives. Eir is already positioned at this site therefore equipment at this location would not address the service needs of the subject search ring.

THR	EOR DN_1312; EE_DU0080; DAFONE_DN327	543m	Site is significantly outside of the required search ring, therefore there is no benefit in adding equipment at this location towards the end of achieving current required search ring objectives. Eir is already positioned at this site therefore equipment at this location would not address the service needs of the subject search ring.
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4.0 APPLICANT: BACKGROUND

4.1 Introduction

The applicant, Cignal Infrastructure Ltd is a company of Cellnex, which is a European Telecommunications infrastructure provider, which specifically facilitates co-location to the communications sector in Ireland and Europe. Cignal was purchased by Cellnex in September 2019. Cignal Infrastructure Ltd. remains the legal entity or trading name for the organisation in Ireland. The organisation has significant commercial relationships with each mobile network operator in the State namely Three, Vodafone and Meteor/eir in addition to radio, broadband and emergency communication service providers. Whilst managing their existing portfolio of 300 former Coillte sites, in addition to over 250 new sites., Cellnex has recently completed the purchase of an additional 1150 sites from CK Hutchinson in Ireland. This brings the total portfolio in Ireland to c.1800 sites nationwide. The applicant plans to add new developments to support the ongoing infrastructural requirements of the telecommunications industry and to facilitate the provision of broadband in current "black spot" areas and to also facilitate higher data transmission speeds in urban areas through various initiatives. It is submitted that the intervention of private sector

firms such as Cignal Infrastructure Ltd. (and its parent company Cellnex), in the roll-out of telecommunications infrastructure, is a significant and fundamental pillar in the Governments telecommunications policy and its future plans.

5.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

5.1 Taskforce: Backdrop to Process

The Section 254 Telecommunications Licence Process has evolved as a direct outcome of the Governments Programme for Government, which gave a commitment to establish a Mobile Phone and Broadband Task Force to identify immediate solutions to broadband/mobile phone coverage deficits and to investigate how better services could be provided to consumers. The Taskforce made a number of key recommendations and set out clear actions, which have evolved with reference to the Implementation Report, inter alia.

Chapter 2, Planning and Licencing, of the Taskforce Report recommended that: 'Provisions relating to planning exemptions for telecommunications infrastructure should be amended to facilitate its smoother deployment and the removal of barriers to investment'. [author's emphasis]

The Task Force also recommended the following:

'That a review of the relevant statutory Planning Guidelines should be undertaken, in conjunction with telecoms industry representatives and other relevant stakeholders, with the aim of evaluating and updating key aspects of the Guidelines to provide clarity and consistency in their interpretation and implementation'.

5.2 Distinction between Section 254 and Class 31

As a direct result of this Government Task Force Report and addendum Implementation Report, two crucial yet mutually exclusive instruments of Irish Planning Law were enacted by resolution of the Oireachtas in order to facilitate the Government's aim; 'To identify immediate solutions to broadband/mobile phone coverage deficits and to investigate how better services could be provided to consumers'. These two legislative instruments were also supported under European Law by the European Union (Reduction of Cost of Deploying High-Speed Public Communications Networks) Regulations 2016.

Putting it simply, the key differentiating element of the Section 254 legislation is that it refers to **Public Roads** whilst the Class 31 exemptions refer to Private Lands and associated 'Exemptions'.

Section 254 requires the applicant to acquire a Licence for the construction of such Telecommunications Infrastructure adjunct to Public Roads. This licence application must demonstrate how the proposal conforms to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Under Section 254, an Appeal of a decision to An Bord Pleanala is provided for. There are no height stipulations provided for therein, however Cignal is committed to the highest standards of proper planning and sustainable development and aims to achieve highest possible environmental assimilation standards. One such example of this aim is portrayed in the pursuit of slim line design protypes, which have evolved since the enactment of the legislation, such as the Alpha 2 model (inter alia), which has combined highly technical specifications with a slim line aesthetically attractive construct with credit afforded to the Cignal Design Team in conjunction with JRA (Jason Redmond Associates).

5.3 Spirit of the Legislation

Planning Authorities, An Bord Pleanala and the Judiciary invariably refer to the 'Spirit of the Legislation', under their respective reports/summations, in drawing conclusions and in issuing Judgements. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the spirit of the Section 254 Licence process is to 'remove barriers' to the roll out and deployment of Telecommunications Infrastructure nationally in order 'to provide immediate solutions to mobile voice and broadband deficits in Ireland'. However, it is noted that regard must be had to the proper planning and sustainable development of an area and be in accordance with respective Development Plans.

5.4 Provisions of Section 254, Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

The salient provisions of Section 254 legislation under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) are as follows:

254. — (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person shall not erect, construct, place or maintain —

F924 [(ee) overground electronic communications infrastructure and any associated physical infrastructure,]

on, under, over or along a public road save in accordance with a licence granted by a planning authority under this section.

- (5) In considering an application for a licence under this section a planning authority, or the Board on appeal, shall have regard to —
- (a) the proper planning and sustainable development of the area,
- (b) any relevant provisions of the development plan, or a local area plan,
- (c) the number and location of existing appliances, apparatuses, or structures on, under, over or along the public road, and
- (d) the convenience and safety of road users including pedestrians.

5.5 Licence History & Precedent

5.5.1 Previous Licence Application in the Vicinity

There have been no previous Section 254 Licence Applications by the applicant in the subject local area.

5.5.2 Previous Licence Applications in the Jurisdiction

The reception of Licence Applications has been very positive for the most part. Numerous Licence Applications have already been approved by various planning authorities throughout the Jurisdiction. Such a positive reception of this new Statutory Instrument reflects innovative, proactive and positive engagement between Local Authorities and Telecommunications Infrastructure providers, which is a significant and dynamic step forward for the Telecommunications Sector, which was clearly espoused under the Taskforce Report and accords with 'the spirit of the legislation'.

The following Section 254 Licence Applications have been granted by An Bord Pleanala in recent times: ABP: PL:305114-19 (Lahinch Rd, Ennis), ABP: PL:306440-20 (Ballybane, Galway) and, ABP: PL:306033 – 05E (Letterkenny, Co. Donegal).PL06S.307196 (Lucan, Co. Dublin).

With regard to the principle of development and the associated acceptance of the proposed modernised type of telecommunications pole, under ABP PL 305114-19 the inspector referred, with regard to the principle of development, "It is agreed that modern technology has provided for design standards that are more amenable to coming within the scope for a License application under Section 254". This appeal was granted by the Board subject to conditions and it pertained to a similar description; 15 metre Alpha 2.0 pole and cabinet, in height and general dimensions.

We also refer the Council to a recent decision by An Bord Pleanala (ref. LC93.309598) dated 28th July 2021 concerning a proposed for a 15m high

streetpole solution to address identified mobile and mobile broadband coverage blackspots at the Junction of St. John's Hill and The Folly, Waterford (Reg. Ref. 19/523).

The An Bord Pleanala Inspector noted that:

- "The structure may briefly be of visual interest but would then become an
 accepted and normal part of the urban streetscape. These structures are
 becoming more common".
- "The structure will be very visible on the streetscape. However, a visual impact is unavoidable with telecommunications infrastructure such as this ... it would not have any undue adverse impact on the surrounding land uses or the protected structures".

The Council are also referred to a recent decision by An Bord Pleanala to approve a Section 254 Licence to install 15 free-standing street pole with shrouded antenna on grass verge along Ballycullen Road, Dublin 24 - ref. ABP-311529-21. The ABP inspector noted the following:

"I acknowledge the proposed monopole would be slightly more prominent than some of the existing structures in the vicinity, including overhead powerlines, street lighting poles, and road signage, [but] I consider that it would not be so visually disruptive that it would seriously injure the visual and residential amenities of the receiving area".

The above Section 254 Licence Applications have similar characteristics to the subject area in terms of receiving environment.

5.6 Street Works in Northern Ireland and the UK, US.

It is very important to convey that this type of Telecommunications solution is extremely commonplace in Northern Ireland, the UK, Europe and in the US.

Furthermore, 'The Greenbook', 'Guidance on the Potential Location of Overground Telecommunications Infrastructure on Public Roads' (April 2015),

published by the Dept of DCCAE (see www.dccae.ie) demonstrates various examples of such structures similar to the structure proposed herewith.

The Green Book acknowledges that the type of infrastructure required will vary, depending on a number of factors, such as location, existing road type and network coverage targets.

In Section 5.4 Consideration of Suitability of Locations, the Green Book refers to the use of standalone poles as the preferred option in urban settings where there is a wide verge or similar.

Urban Roads					
General	Opportunities	Comment			
are generally few opportunities to cater for large, stand-alone masts. There may be opportuni- lies in the vicinity of some round- abouts.	Opportunities are generally limited to locations where a wide verge or footpath allows the accommodation of small cabinets/antennae and/or the erection of stand-alone poles to accommodate telecommunications infrastructure.	Stand-alone poles are the pre- ferred option in urban areas, as there are ongoing operationa and maintenance issues relat- ing to accommodating elec- tronic equipment on lighting columns.			

Fig.No.8 Guidance on potential location of overground telecommunications infrastructure on public roads.

In general, the height of telecommunications infrastructure is determined by the network requirements. According to EIR, an overall height of 18m is required at Stillorgan Road in order to provide the required coverage and to clear local obstacles that would cause network interference.

We note Appendix A of the Green Book, which offers examples of acceptable roadside infrastructure, particularly examples three and four, both of which are structures of 15m and over.

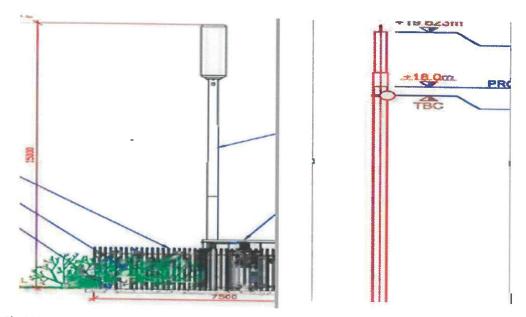


Fig No.9 Image 5 Examples of small and medium size Single Operator Sites Extracted from the Green Book Appendix A.

For these reasons we suggest that the proposed development is in line with the National and EU digital agenda and the County Development Plan and as such should be permitted as a critical addition to the local service provision.

5.7 Proper Planning and Sustainable Development Considerations

This section sets out the Planning Considerations relevant to the subject licence application. Cignal Infrastructure Ltd. has given due regard to the following policy documents in selecting the subject site.

National Telecommunications Policy

- Planning Guidelines for Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures' (1996).
- Circular Letter PL 07/12 issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government.
- The 'Green Book': Guidance on the Potential Location of Overground Telecommunications Infrastructure on Public Roads (April 2015), Published by The Dept of DCCAE (Product of Collaboration with Department of

Communications Energy and Natural Resources, Department of Transport Tourism and Sport, County and City Management Association, Office for Local Authority Management, National Roads Authority (TII)).

 The National Broadband Plan 2012 (and updated under Project Ireland 2040).

5.7.1 Project Ireland 2040 – The National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework, which is the Country's penultimate, high level planning steering document at national level, stresses the importance of island wide telecoms connectivity. It refers that in the information age, telecommunications networks play a crucial role in enabling social and economic activity.

5.7.2 Circular Letter PL 11/2020, Telecommunications Services – Planning Exemptions and Section 254 Licences

This Circular was issued on 17th December 2020. It clarifies that a s.254 licence is required for overground electronic communications infrastructure and any associated physical infrastructure but such works are exempt from planning permission.

While a section 254 licence is required for such works, section 254(7) further provides that development carried out in accordance with a licence issued under section 254 shall be exempted development for the purposes of the Act.

5.7.3 East and Midlands RSES (Regional Spatial Economic Strategy)

This strategic policy document refers under Chapter 11 that; 'In the information age, telecommunications networks play a crucial role in enabling social and economic activity. This RSES supports actions to strengthen communications links

to develop a stable, innovative and secure digital communications and services infrastructure on an all-island basis'.

Section 6.4: The Region's Economic Engines and their Sectoral Opportunities: In alignment with the Growth Strategy for the Region in Chapter 3, and in conjunction with the Settlement Strategy expressed in Chapter 4, it is an aim of the RSES that there is a convergence between where people live and work and that settlements improve the quality of life of their people.

'The pervasiveness of digitisation across all sectors compounds the complexity of sector development, and it provides for constant and rapid evolution of emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics and virtual reality'.

Section 8.6 Communications Network and Digital Infrastructure

Access to broadband in the Region is improving but remains incomplete. Many
rural and peripheral areas of the Region are poorly served by broadband and
there is a need to increase the rate of investment in broadband, in particular in

rural areas.

The increasing use of digital technologies is impacting on every aspect of our lives: from transport, to education, leisure and entertainment and health services. Infrastructure to deliver better connected services is vital to our continued growth, supporting businesses and enhancing our communities. As the digital economy grows, we must ensure that the business opportunities and benefits are felt throughout the Region from our capital city to every town, village and outlying rural area - author's emphasis.

The provision of next generation broadband services to rural areas is a key enabling support to ensure smaller urban areas and rural areas are not at a disadvantage in attracting and retaining enterprise and employment compared to larger urban centres. The National Broadband Plan will play an integral role in

delivering this infrastructure and revitalising businesses and communities across rural Ireland. This is a fast moving and evolving infrastructure and the region will need to be able to respond and adapt to future communications networks and technology along with changing work practices and emerging economic models.

Regional Policy Objective - RPO 8.25

Local authorities shall:

- Support and facilitate delivery of the National Broadband Plan.
- Facilitate enhanced international fibre communications links, including full interconnection between the fibre networks in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- Promote and facilitate the sustainable development of a high-quality ICT network throughout the Region in order to achieve balanced social and economic development, whilst protecting the amenities of urban and rural areas.
- Support the national objective to promote Ireland as a sustainable international destination for ICT infrastructures such as data centres and associated economic activities at appropriate locations.
- Promote Dublin as a demonstrator of 5G information and communication technology.

Regional Policy Objective - RPO 8.26

 The EMRA supports the preparation of planning guidelines to facilitate the efficient roll out and delivery of national broadband.

5.7.4 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan, 2022-2028

The County Development Plan 2022-2028 was adopted by the elected members at a Special County Development Plan meeting held on the 10th March 2022.

The adopted Plan will come into force 6 weeks after it was adopted on the 21st April 2022.

12.9.8 Telecommunications

In the consideration of proposals for telecommunications antennae and support structures, applicants will be required to demonstrate:

Compliance with the Planning Guidelines for 'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures' (1996), and Circular Letter PL 08/12 issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government (as may be amended from time to time), and to other publications and material as may be relevant in the circumstances.

On a map the location of all existing telecommunications structures within a **1km** radius of the proposed site, stating reasons why (if not proposed) it is not feasible to share existing facilities having regard to the 'Code of Practice on Sharing of Radio Sites', issued by the Commission for Communications Regulation.

To what degree the proposal will impact on the amenities of occupiers of nearby properties, or the amenities of the area - e.g. visual impacts of masts and associated equipment cabinets, security fencing treatment etc. - and the potential for mitigating visual impacts including low and mid - level landscape screening, tree-type masts being provided where appropriate, colouring, or painting of masts and antennae, and considered access arrangements.

Any impacts on rights-of-way and walking.

That the proposal shall not have a significant negative visual impact.

Zoning

The subject site is **not zoned**.

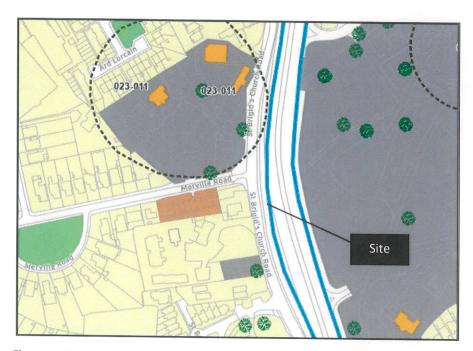


Fig No.10 Extract from DLR Development Plan 2022-28 zoning map.

The blue line represents a Core Bus Corridor.

Site Designations (Scenic Routes, Landscape Sensitivity etc.)

The site has no specific amenity designation. There is no protected scenic route proximate to the site. It is not within an SAC/SPA.

In relation to the bus corridor it is not considered that this presents any issue but it is highlighted that that the Council can be comforted by section S.254 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 200 as amended which states that "A licence may be granted under this section by the planning authority for such period and upon such conditions as the authority may specify, including conditions in relation to location and design, and where in the opinion of the planning authority by reason of the increase or alteration of traffic on the road

or of the widening of the road or of <u>any improvement of or relating to the road,</u> the appliance, apparatus or structure causes an obstruction or becomes dangerous, the authority may by notice in writing withdraw the licence and require the licensee to remove the appliance, apparatus or structure at his or her own expense" – emphasis added.

6.0 VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Please refer to the CGI images prepared by Jason Redmond Associates, Consulting Engineers submitted with the application showing before and after images of the proposed development.

For the purpose of this study the criteria as set out in the current EPA Guidelines on Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (2017, Draft) are used in the assessment of the likely impacts. The criteria for rating the significance of impacts are outlined below:

Criteria for significance of effects under EPA Guidelines

EPA Rating				
Imperceptible	An impact capable of measurement but without			
	significant consequences			
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the			
	character of the environment without significant			
	consequences			
Slight	An impact which causes noticeable changes in the			
	character of the environment without affecting its			
	sensitivities			

Moderate	An impact that alters the character of the environment in
	a manner that is consistent with the existing and emerging
	baseline trends
Significant	An impact which, by its character, magnitude, duration or
	intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or
	intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the
	environment environment
Profound	An impact which obliterates sensitive characteristics

A total of **6 no. Visual Reference Points** have been identified within a 171m radius of the site.

VRPs 1 - 3 are taken at distances of 171m, 135m and 114m respectively from the site. The pole and cabinet are visible from these locations.

VRPs 4-6 are taken at distances of 67m, 61m and 55m respectively from the site. The pole is partially visible and cabinet is not visible from these locations.

Given the established context provided by the receiving environment which comprises lamp posts and street signage, along with the slender nature of the structure, and the neutral sky grey colour, the visual impact is considered to be slight to moderate. It will read as part of the typical street furniture and will not be an incongruous insertion into the streetscape.

VIA Conclusion

It is concluded that while the proposed 18 metre pole will be visible from closeup locations, which is to be expected, it will not be an incongruous insertion into the streetscape. It is submitted that the proposed pole will be of neutral sky grey, which will reflect the skyline and therefore the proposed pole will be well assimilated with regards to its colour/texture. It is not considered that such visual sighting of same would be detrimental to the visual amenities of the area, the community amenities or of the public realm at this location.

Established street poles and backdrop development have the effect of absorbing the proposed structure from many of the viewpoints.

The proposed pole structure and cabinet, which are proposed for this spatial context is a more stream-lined and sleek version of the structures, which were initially rolled out under the Section 254 Licence process. The proposed structure/equipment is testament to the objective of the Cellnex Company, Cignal, which has been to strive to carefully select appropriate sites, which meet coverage objectives, but which also sensitively address the streetscape wherein such structures are located. It is respectfully submitted that the proposed structure, is presented as a utility structure in this streetscape.

Please note the inspector's comment under ABP reference PL. 61.306440, which was an appeal against a decision of Galway City Council to refuse a similar Alpha 2.0 pole structure. The Board overturned the decision of the planning authority in this instance and the ABP inspector, whilst recommending a grant be issued, referred the following in relation to design and visual impacts:

'I would consider that the structure itself is nondescript in character and design and is not dissimilar in scale or design of a lamp standard or traffic light pole. I would consider that the structure is of a design and scale that would not be out of character or be a visually obtrusive or an incongruous element in a suburban area such as this'.

It is respectfully submitted that the proposal, in a similar suburban context, will be assimilated into the established streetscape and skyscape at this location and within the backdrop of the receiving environment and is entirely in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

7.0 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

7.1 Natura 2000 Provisions

Having regard to the nature and limited scale of the proposed development and nature of the receiving environment together with the distance from the nearest European site, no Appropriate Assessment issues arise and it is not considered that the proposed development would be likely to have a significant effect individually or in combination with other plans or projects on a European site.

8.0 ICNIRP COMPLIANCE

8.1 Health and Safety legislation and Guidelines

The subject site will be built in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation and Guidelines, which is ultra vires to the planning process. Comreg is the appropriate authority with responsibility for same. The proposed equipment and installation are designed to be in full compliance with the limits set by the Guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection.

9.0 CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the proposed street work solution accords with pattern and character of the public realm in this area of Stillorgan Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

The principle of the proposed 18m streetpole structure has been accepted by numerous planning authorities and An Bord Pleanala, since the enactment of the legislation.

It is respectfully submitted that policy cited under the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028, particularly with regard to colocation, was clearly applied to the site selection process. All other locations i.e. existing telecommunication sites have been evaluated and discounted for various reasons set out above. The majority of the established sites assessed were too far from the search ring, to satisfy its technical requirements. The Cellnex Team also considered 'Alternatives' and various locations were ruled out for genuine reasons.

Furthermore, the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028 clearly recognises the importance of the development of a high-quality telecommunications network.

The proposed 18 metre streetpole solution will provide for optimum coverage as required in an area where there is a noted dearth in coverage. Additionally, given the current Covid 19 crisis, the newly acquired practices of wholescale 'Working from Home' have placed increasing demands on the network as noted by Government in recent Circulars and associated actions. It is also widely accepted that 'Working from Home' practices will become the new norm for a significant time period into the future. Therefore, the immediate urgency of this type of telecommunications infrastructure to address coverage gaps in the

network, in addition to increased demand, has never been so crucial to the ongoing economic and sustainable development of the Country.

It is submitted that the proposed pole will be of neutral sky grey, which will reflect the skyline and therefore the proposed pole will be well assimilated with regards to its colour/texture and therefore complies with the best principles of siting and design.

On a site-specific basis, the proposed location, will not interfere with the use of the footpath and will provide an appropriate setting for the proposed pole and cabinet where it will appear as normal utility infrastructure. If acceptable to Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown the existing light pole will be removed and the lamparm will be reused on the new streetpole to match the existing mounting height.

The VIA submitted herewith demonstrates that there will be no negative impact on the visual amenities of this area with slight to moderate visual impacts being perceived as one observes the structure in middle to near distance. It is submitted that whilst the structure will naturally be visible, it cannot be argued that visibility of such a structure alone amounts to detrimental impacts rather normal perception of development. This type of structure is crucial functional infrastructure, which significantly contributes to successful place making, in a modern day, functional public realm.

The proposed development is also consistent with the main thrust of the East and Midlands RSES (Regional Spatial Economic Strategy).

The planning authority is respectfully requested to consider the necessity for this infrastructure, which the market would not require if there was not a demand for same. The planning authority is also requested to consider the meticulous site selection process undertaken, which has to satisfy the criteria of the planning authority in addition to the technical/radio requirements of the identified search ring. Finally, the planning authority is also requested to consider the suitability of

this type of spatial context for this infrastructure generally. i.e. arterial transport route/ proximate to nearby junction.

With regard to the \$.254 legislation, as cited under Section 4 above, it is submitted that the proposed development.

- Accords with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- Accords with the relevant provisions of the development plan.
- Does not detract from the convenience and safety of road users including pedestrians,
- Assimilates within the existing pattern of appliances, apparatuses, or other structures along the public road.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that the proposal fully complies with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and it is requested that Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council grant this Licence Application with regard to the case set out above.

A stage II Appropriate Assessment is not considered necessary. We invite the Council as the competent body to agree with this conclusion.



David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd
CHARTERED PLANNING CONSULTANTS



Marsh Ireland Brokers Ltd Marsh House 25-28 Adelaide Road Dublin 2 D02 RY98 Tel: 01 604 8100 www.marsh.ie

To Whom It May Concern

9th of March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Confirmation of Insurance – Cellnex Ireland Ltd, Cignal Infrastructure Limited and/or Cellcom Ireland Ltd and/or On Tower Ireland Ltd.

As requested by you, we are writing to confirm that we act as your Insurance Broker and that we have arranged insurance(s) on your behalf as detailed below with insurers who are authorised to conduct insurance business in Ireland by their respective regulatory authority(ies). A copy of this letter may be provided by you to third parties who have a legitimate need to receive confirmation of your insurance cover.

Business Description

Provides telecommunications infrastructure solutions

PUBLIC LIABILITY

INSURER:

XL Insurance Company SE

POLICY NUMBER:

PERIOD OF INSURANCE:

1st March 2022 to 28th February 2023 (both days inclusive)

LIMIT OF INDEMNITY:

€7,000,000 (any one event and in the aggregate during the period of

insurance)

We have placed the insurance which is the subject of this letter after consultation with you and based upon your instructions only. Terms of coverage are based upon information furnished to us by you, which information we have not independently verified.

This letter is issued as a matter of information only and confers no right upon you or any third party to whom it is disclosed, other than those provided by the policy. This letter does not amend, extend or alter the coverage afforded by the policies described herein. Notwithstanding any requirement, term or condition of any contract or other document with respect to which this letter may be issued or pertain, the insurance afforded by the policy (policies) described herein is subject to all terms, conditions, limitations, exclusions and

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cancellation provisions and may also be subject to warranties. Limits shown may have been reduced by paid claims.

We express no view and assume no liability with respect to the solvency or future ability to pay off any of the insurance companies which have issued the insurance(s).

Where a copy of this letter has been provided to a third party, we assume no obligation to advise that third party of any developments regarding your insurance(s) subsequent to the date hereof. Additionally this letter is given on the condition that we are not assuming any liability to any third party who receives a copy of this letter, based upon the placement of your insurance(s) and/or the statements made herein.

This letter shall be governed by and shall be construed in accordance with Irish law.

Yours sincerely.



Marsh Ireland Brokers Limited, trading as Marsh Ireland, Bowring Marsh, Charity Insurance, Echelon Claims Consultants, Guy Carpenter & Company, ILCS, Insolutions, Lloyd & Partners, Marsh Aviation Consulting, Marsh Claims Management Services, Marsh Claims Solutions, Marsh Specialty, Marsh Reclaim, and Marsh Risk Consulting, is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

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2022 Bianconi Avenue Citywest Business Campus Dublin 24 D24 HX03 T +353 1 671 4444 eir.ie

Branch Address: 1 Heuston South Quarter,

St. John's Road, Dublin 8

VAT registration: IE 3286434NH

Radio Emissions Statement

As an operator of a Mobile Telecommunications Network *Eir Ltd* is aware of its requirements in relation to management of electromagnetic field radiation and are committed to management of risk to our employees, members of the public and any other groups who may be affected by our networks. All of the radio equipment on our network and our radio base stations are "Safe by Design" and are designed to meet international health and safety standards and best practice, including the relevant guidance from International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and from the Communications Regulator in Ireland.

Eir Ltd own and operate mobile telecommunications sites across Ireland. These sites are built and managed to operate within the limits for exposure to Electromagnetic Fields which are set by the Communications Regulator and are based on guidance from the International Council for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and meet the requirements of directives from the European Commission. The issue of radiation from Mobile Phones has been a concern for many people since the introduction of this technology significant numbers of studies have been performed and have been reviewed by international experts. The World Health Organisation in their fact sheet on Electromagnetic fields and public health: mobile phones have stated that "A large number of studies have been undertaken on both acute and long-term effects from HF (High Frequency EMF Radiation) exposure typical of base stations. Research at these levels of exposure has provided no conclusive evidence of any related adverse health effects". (Ref; http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs193/en/). In their on line Q&A on Mobile Phones and Cancer the WHO also states "Studies to date provide no indication that environmental exposure to RF fields, such as from base stations, increases the risk cancer or any other disease." (http://www.who.int/features/ga/30/en/)

The International Council on Non Ionising Radiation Protection, who are the lead independent agency on non-ionising radiation safety have stated "A large number of studies have been undertaken on both acute and long-term effects from HF (High Frequency Non Ionising Radiation) exposure typical of base stations. Research at these levels of exposure has provided no conclusive evidence of any related adverse health effects." (http://www.icnirp.org/en/applications/base-stations/index.html) in late 2015 The European Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks published a "Final Opinion on the Potential health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF)" The expert opinion is based on the latest scientific studies and expert review. In its summary the Scientific Committee state that "The results of current scientific research show

that there are no evident adverse health effects if exposure remains below the levels recommended by the EU legislation.

Our antennae are well below this level) Overall, the epidemiological studies on radiofrequency EMF exposure do not show an increased risk of brain tumours. Furthermore, they do not indicate an increased risk for other cancers of the head and neck region."

The maximum exposure levels that are set by ICNIRP for Public exposure to radiation in the mobile phone frequency range is 28 V/m. All of our sites are designed and maintained to operate well within these guideline limits. Independent compliance inspections that are carried out for our company and are published by the Communications Regulator on their website (www.siteviewer.ie) show that the levels of EMF radiation from mobile telecoms masts in Ireland ranges between 0.5-3V/m, well within the safe exposure limits advised by international experts.

We continue to monitor the advice and guidance given by Government, international experts and equipment manufacturers to ensure that the sites that we operate continue to operate well within the limits set for exposure of members of the public and for our employees and contractors who will work at your location.

Internal Documentation References:

Meteor Mobile Communications Design and Build Specification and Guidelines Standard Safe Operating practices - Mobile Network

Statement Prepared By:

Date: 12/07/17



Declaration under Regulation 5 of the European Communities (Electronic Communications)(Authorisation) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 335 of 2011)

To whom it may concern

In accordance with the terms of Regulation 5 of the European Communities (Electronic Communications)(Authorisation) Regulations 2011, the Commission for Communications Regulation hereby confirms that the undertaking named below has submitted a notification pursuant to Regulation 4(1)

Authorised Person: Cignal Infrastructure Ltd

and in accordance with that Regulation is deemed to be authorised to provide an electronic communications network or electronic communications service subject to the terms and conditions of a general authorisation issued by the Commission for Communications Regulation.

An Authorised Person may:

- (a) provide the electronic communications networks or services as described in the notification and which is recorded in the public register maintained for that purpose by the Commission for Communications Regulation,
- (b) apply for a consent under section 53 of the Act of 2002 to commence or carry out road works. Applications for such consent shall be made to the road authority in whose functional area the Authorised Person proposes to carry out the road works.
- apply for a licence under section 254(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 for the establishment of overground electronic communications infrastructure and any associated physical infrastructure on, under, over or along a public road. Applications for such a licence shall be made to the planning authority in whose functional area the Authorised Person proposes to establish the infrastructure.

Where an Authorised Person is providing an electronic communications service or network to the public, such Authorised Person has the right to negotiate interconnection with another Authorised Person or another undertaking deemed to be authorised in another Member State. The right to negotiate interconnection is subject to the provisions of the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services)(Access) Regulations 2011 and any decisions,



determinations, requirements, specifications, notifications and directions issued by the Commission for Communications Regulation from time to time. Such interconnection shall be for the purpose of providing publicly available Electronic Communications Services in order to ensure the provision and interoperability of services.

Issued on behalf of the Commission for Communications Regulation by

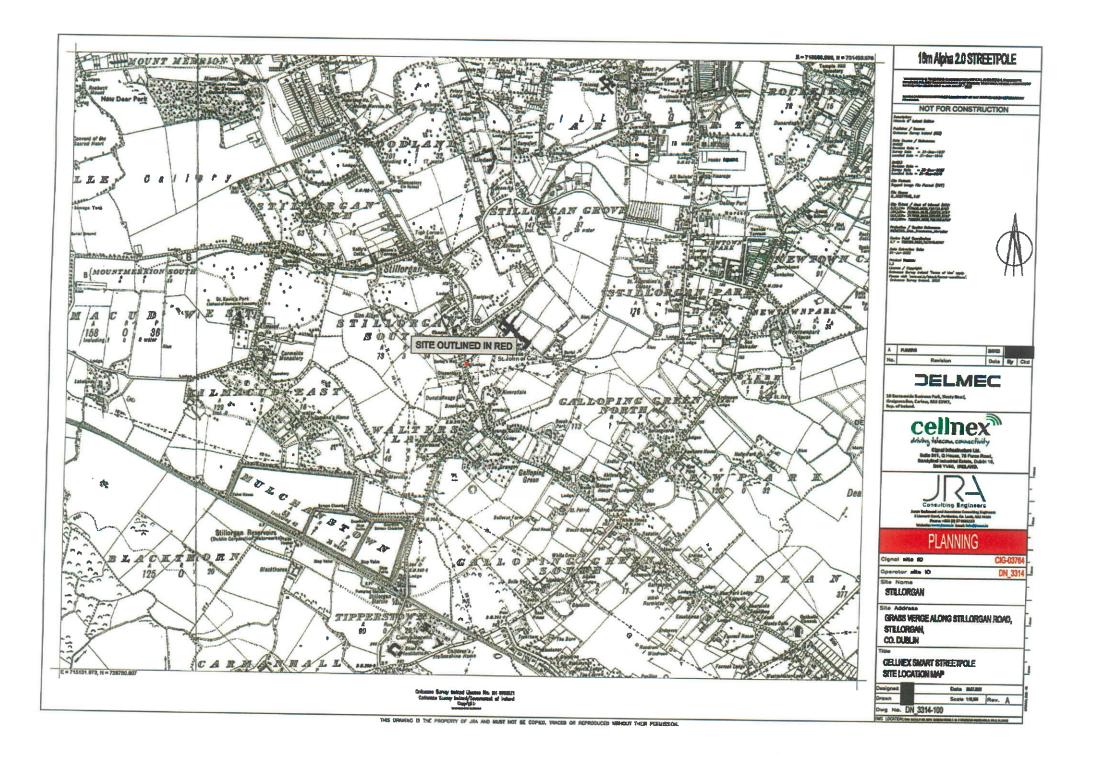
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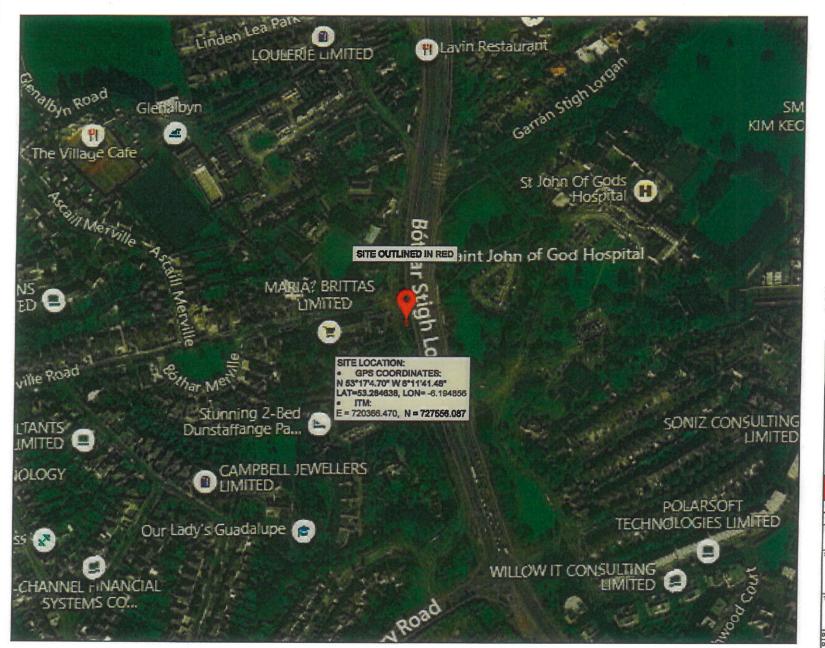
Name:

Analyst - Market Framework Division

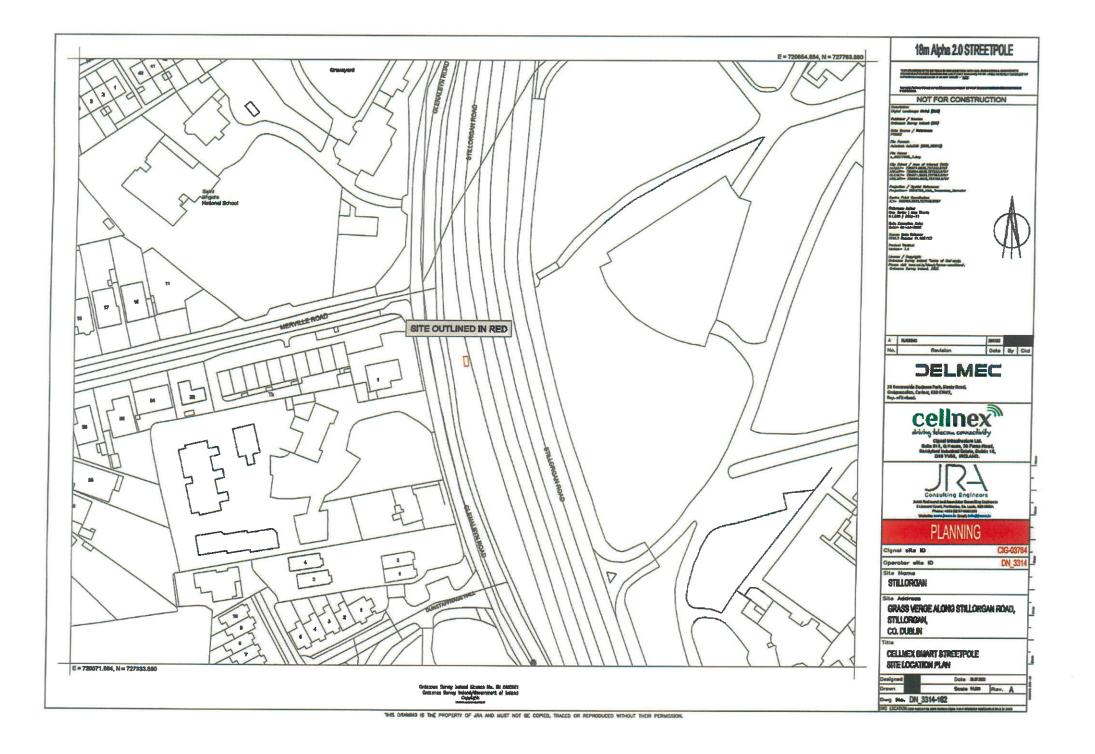
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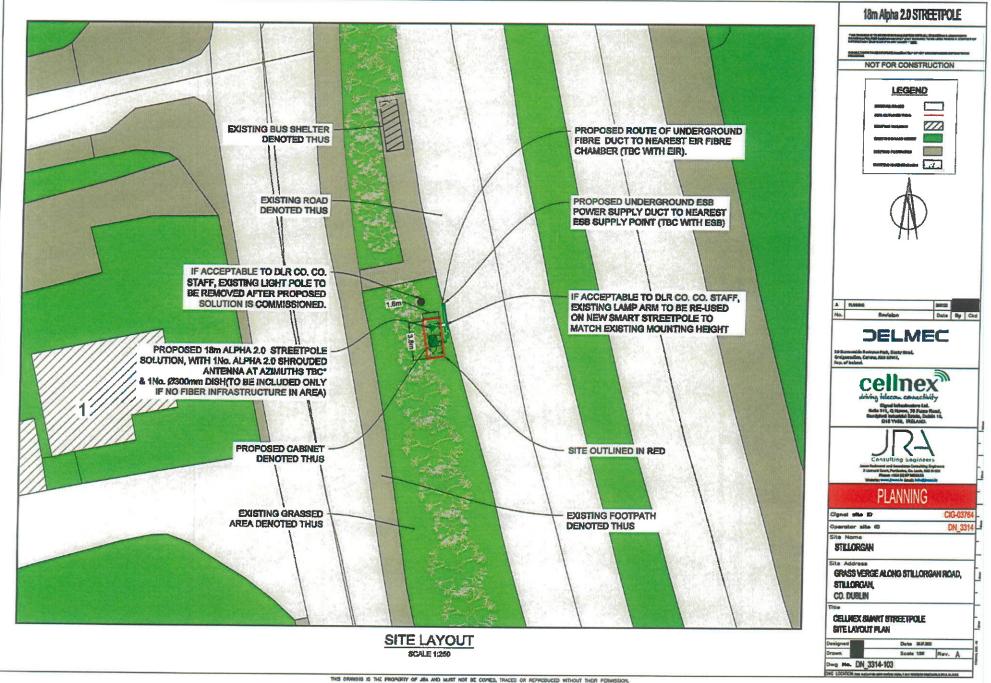
3 March 2016

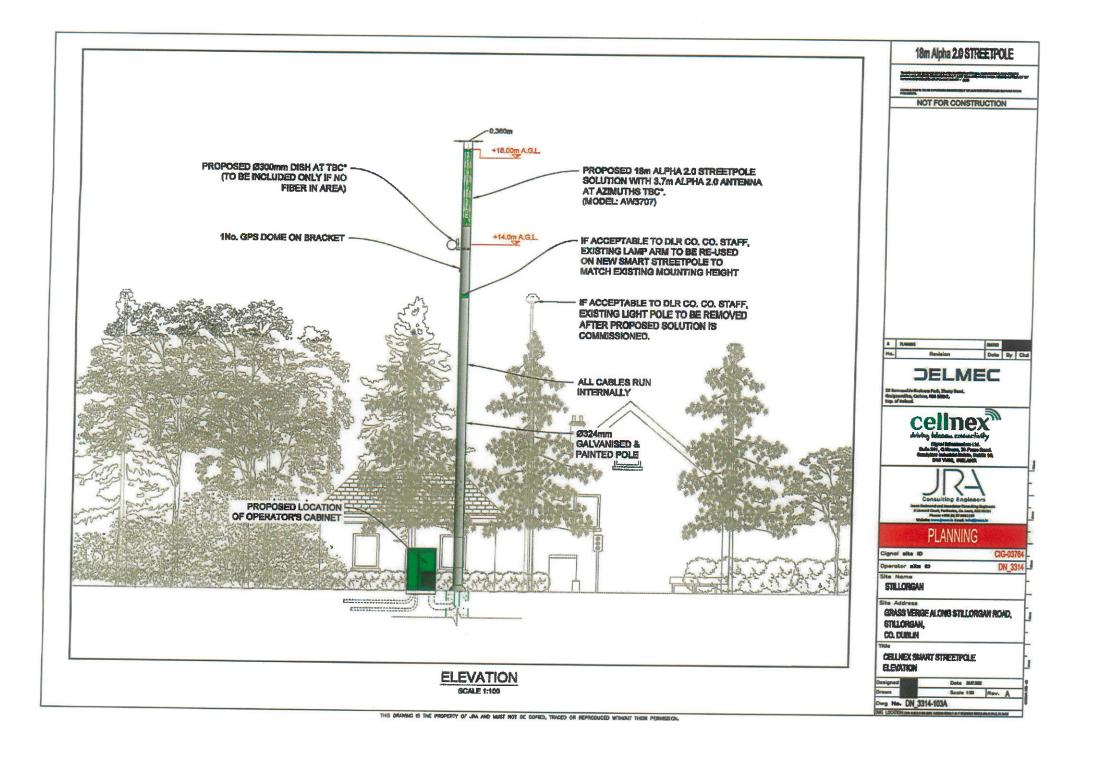






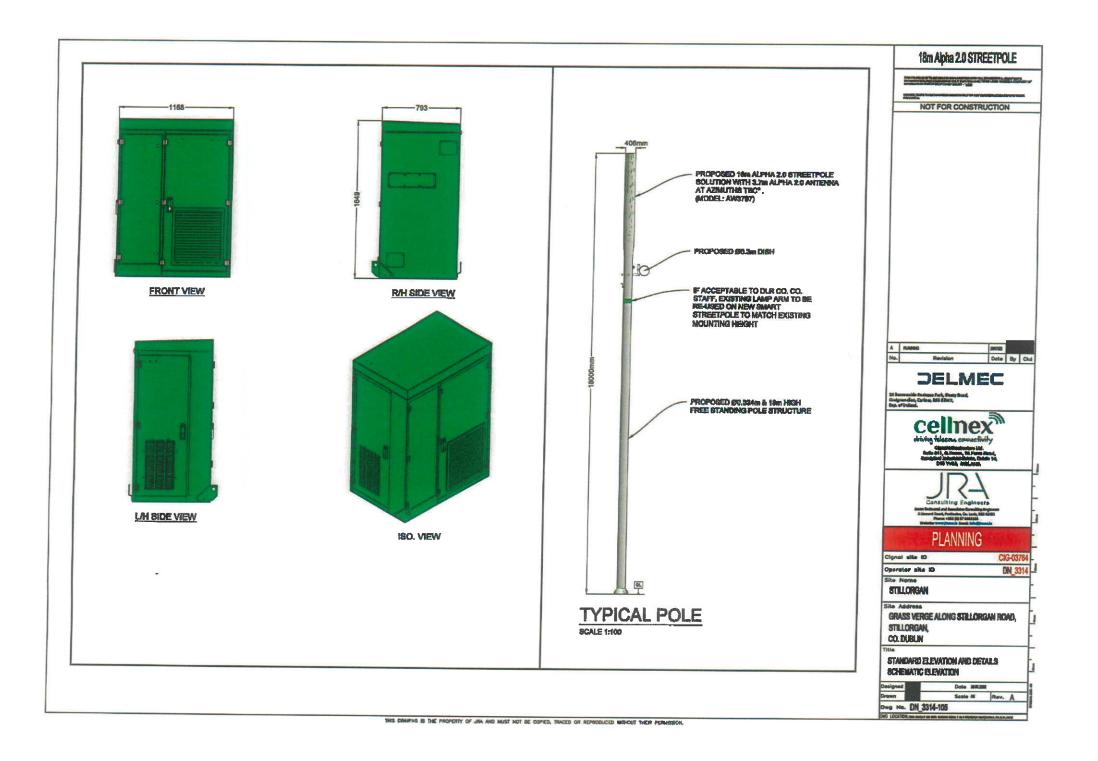








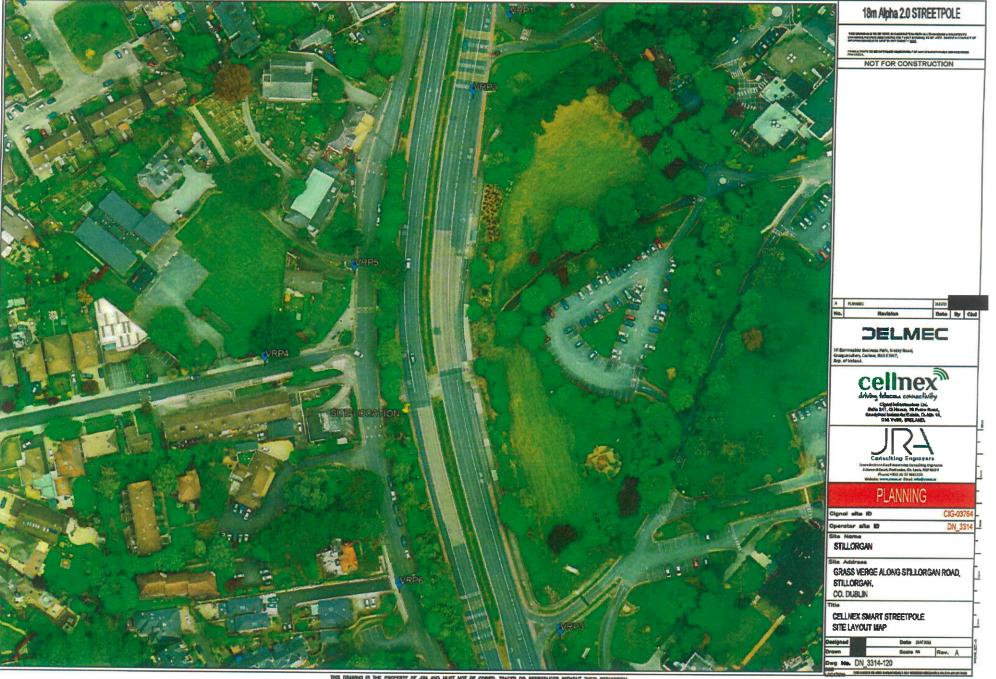




VISUAL REFERENCE POINTS

DWG NO.	LOCATION	COORDINATES (ITM)	DISTANCE	BEARING	VISIBILITY
1	VRP 1	720406.396, 727723,544	171M	14"	Pole and cabinet visible.
2	VRP 2	720389.275, 727689.713	135M	11"	Pole and cabinat visible.
3	VRP 3	720438,083, 727467,056	114M	143°	Pole and cabinet visible
4	VRP 4	720301.708, 727576,174	67M	287*	Poin le partielly vielble and cabinet le not visible,
5	VRP 5	720343.923, 727614,350	61M	340*	Pole is partially visible and cabinet is not visible.
6	VRP 6	720352.854, 727503.192	55M	187*	Pole is partially visible and cabinet is not visible.







VRP1 - WITHOUT SOLUTION IN PLACE



VRPI - WITH SOLUTION IN PLACE





VAP2 - WITHOUT SOLUTION IN PLACE



VRP2 - WITH SOLUTION IN PLACE



18m Alpha 2.0 STREETPOLE





VRP3 - WITHOUT BOLUTION IN PLACE

VRP3 - WITH SOLLATION IN PLACE



18m Alpha 2.0 STREETPOLE

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VRP4 - WITHOUT BOLUTION IN PLACE



VRP4 - WITH SOLUTION IN PLACE







VAPS - WITHOUT SOLUTION BY PLACE

VRP5 - WITH SOLUTION IN PLACE

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18m Alpha 2.0 STREETPOLE

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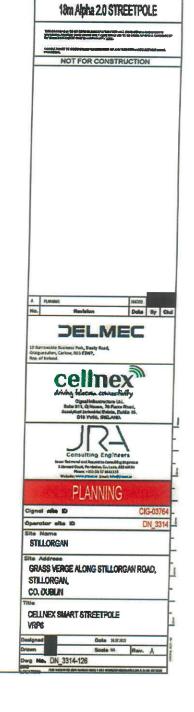
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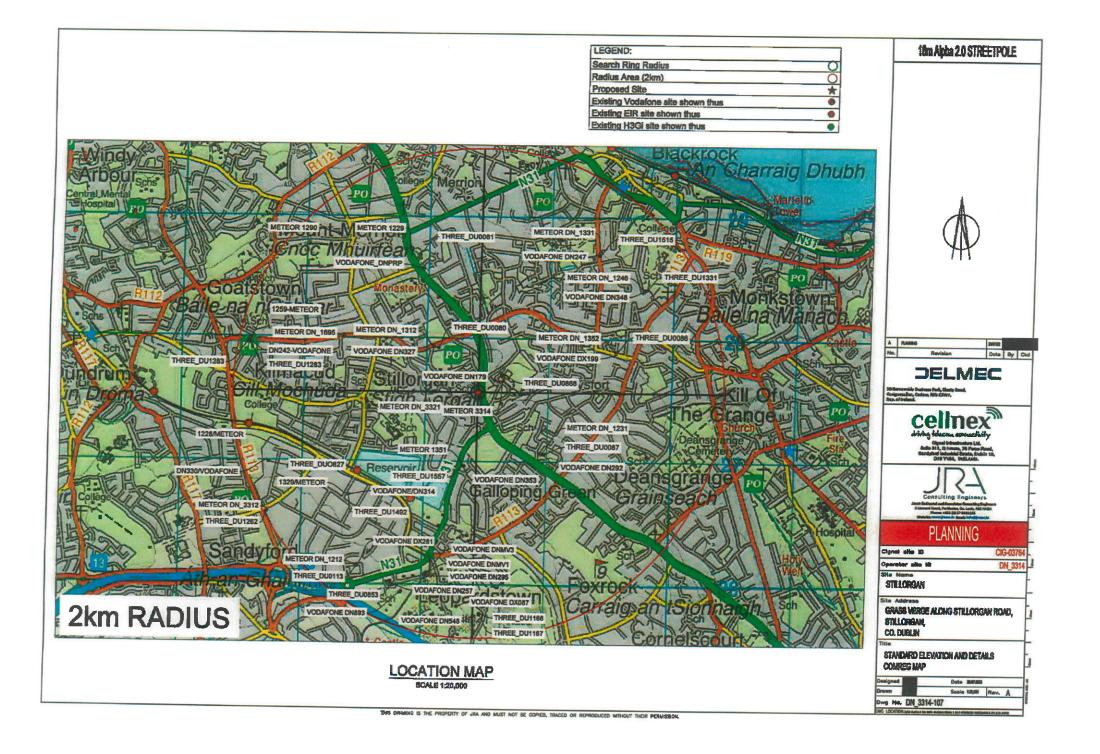


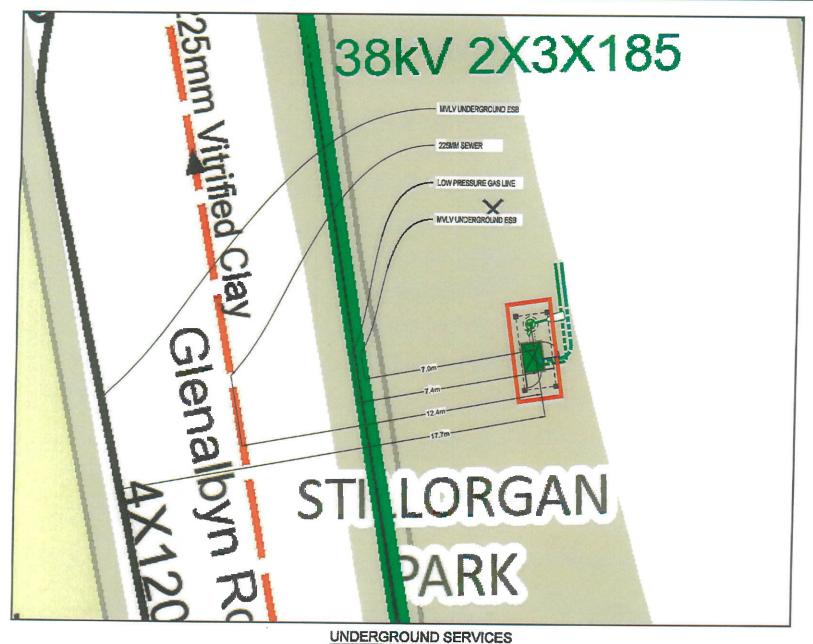
VALPE - WITHOUT SOLUTION IN PLACE



VRP6 - WITH SOLUTION IN PLACE

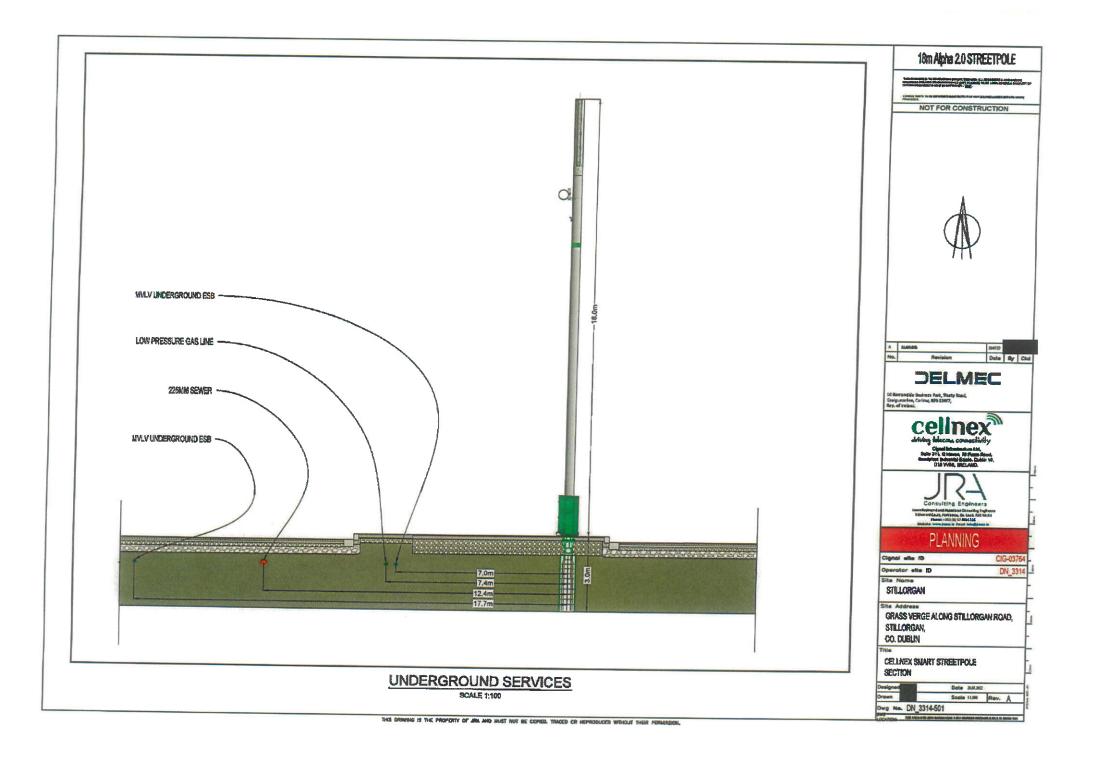






NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION Date By Clod DELMEC Cignal site ID CIG-0376 Operator site ID STILLORGAN GRASS VERGE ALONG STILLORGAN ROAD, STILLORGAN CO. DUBLIN CELLNEX SMART STREETPOLE SITE LAYOUT PLAN Dwg No. DN 3314-500

18m Alpha 2.0 STREETPOLE







Date: 05.10.2022

Jason Redmond & Associates Consulting Engineers 5 Lismard Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois R32 NH2H

Re: Section 254 Application- Proposed Telecommunications Streetworks Solution

Date Received: 05/08/2022

Applicant: Cignal Infrastructure Ltd.,

Suite 309, Q House, 76 Furze Road,

Sandyford Industrial Estate,

Dublin 18

Site Name: Stillorgan

Location: Grass verge along Stillorgan Rd, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin

dlr Application Reference: CTT.22.044.263540 - Stillorgan Road

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in response to the application made on behalf of Cignal Infrastructure Ltd under the provisions of Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) for the installation of communications infrastructure under licence from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in the grass verge along Stillorgan Rd, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council have reviewed the application and wish to advise that the license request has been refused.

A summary of the feedback provided by relevant parties who reviewed the application is provided below:



- The Infrastructure and Climate Change Department object to the application location as it
 falls on the Bus Connects Bray to City Centre proposed scheme. The proposed location
 of this mast would conflict with this future scheme.
- Parks & Landscape Services are not in favour of the proposed location of the Cellnex Streetpole and associated cabinet as the proposal will have an impact on the surrounding trees. It is to be noted that the Parks Department proposed alternative location is solely their feedback and has not been considered by other relevant sections/departments.
- The Traffic section objects to the proposed location of the tower and cabinet, as its location hinders the visibility for both pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles approaching to the pedestrian crossing and the bus shelter on Stillorgan Road (N31).
- The Public Lighting section object to the provided location, it is to be noted that the Public Lighting proposed alternative location is solely their feedback and has not been considered by other relevant sections/departments.
- Road Maintenance Section object to the proposed location for the Smart Street Pole and Cabinet, as its location hinders the visibility for both pedestrians and vehicles approaching the existing pedestrian crossing on the N11. It is to be noted that the Road Maintenance proposed alternative location is solely their feedback and has not been considered by other relevant sections/departments.

Please find accompanying memos from the Infrastructure and Climate Change Department, Parks Department, Traffic, Public Lighting and Road Maintenance sections which detail the reasons for refusal. Also, please find attached a letter from Transport Infrastructure Ireland with respect to this application.

Yours faithfully,

M. O' Carroll

Margaret O'Carroll,
Clerical Officer

Roads Maintenance