

Request:

21/01272/TELGDO Proposed 15-metre Phase 8 Monopole

I refer to the matter, recently brought to my attention, concerning the proposed erection of a 15 metre 'Phase 8 monopole' mast, radiating electromagnetic energy at an unspecified frequency and power, to be sited in the Beaumont Park housing estate.

Whilst I do not live there, and have no comments concerning the negative visual impact of the proposal, my child spends a significant amount of time in a property close to the proposed site of the mast, in the care of a registered child minder. I am, consequently, concerned about the probability of physical harm to my child arising from an increased exposure to harmful non-ionising radiation emanating from the mast, which, I believe, will be less than 500 metres from the property.

I note that, in order to assuage the objection of local residents to the visual impact of the proposal, the height of the mast has been reduced from 18 to 15 metres. The probability is that, in order to compensate for the reduced height of the mast, the radiated power will be increased. This will cause the electromagnetic radiation to be intensified in those areas close to the installation. There are many studies of health problems associated with areas close to such masts, which are believed to be a consequence of non-ionising radiation (as opposed to thermal) effects. Further, it is, probably, the case that children are particularly at risk.

Consequently, I wish to make a request, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for you to disclose to me any discussions, and their results, you may have had with the Applicant regarding health issues. I also request that you provide copies of any documentation, relating to the hazard to health posed by this proposal, that may be in your possession.

Response:

The prior approval notice ref. 21/01272/TELGDO for a mast at Beaumont Drive is a public document and the submitted notification, representations received and associated correspondence are available for public inspection and most are available on line via our public access site. A link to Public Access is provided below (please use the application reference number to search): <https://idoxpublicaccess.northtyneside.gov.uk/online-applications/>

**As the planning documents are already open to public inspection and some documentation is available to view on line, your request is refused as it is an exemption under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because the information requested is reasonably accessible to you by other means. **

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North Tyneside Council

Reference: EIR4008

To assist you in reviewing the submitted documents relating to health, please note that it is a requirement for telecommunications operators to provide a declaration of conformity with International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection Public Exposure Guidelines. This document is available on line.

Whilst current restrictions remain in place and it is difficult to arrange for your inspection of the full file, I can confirm there are no other documents relating to health considerations held. This is because the national planning policy framework states "Local Planning Authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to set health safeguards different from the International Commission Guidelines for public exposure" (NPPF Para 118) (www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/10-supporting-high-quality-communications-infrastructure). There was therefore no exchange of information on this matter.

Please note that prior approval for the mast was refused on 7 July 2021.

If you do wish to make arrangements to view the file please contact us at development.control@northtyneside.gov.uk or by telephoning Mr Stephen Forsten on 0191 643 6350.

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