



22nd July 2016

Re: FOI request IE_FOI_049

Dear 

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this body:

Request –

- Any information, documentation and correspondence relating to the decision to install a mast at Drumcondra Station

Please see attached record which details items regarding the GSM-R roll out including masts. You will note that our contractor has invoked a confidentiality clause surrounding documents, reports and surveys.

Rights of appeal –

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter, you can do so by writing to the FOI Unit, Corporate Communications, Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, Connolly Station, Amiens St, Dublin 1 or by e-mail to foι@irishrail.ie. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays, however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances.

The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact the FOI Officer on 01-7034293.

Yours sincerely,


John Kennedy

IM Human Resources Decision Maker, Iarnrod Eireann

Freedom of Information Request:
 Schedule of Records for IE_FOL_049 : Summary for Decision Making

Record No.	Date of Record	Brief Description	No. of Pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Section of Act if applicable	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
1	22.07.16	Overview of basis of decision relating to the decision to install a mast at Drumcondra Station	1			

Signed 
 IE Decision Maker

Record #1

IE FOI 049 – Overview of basis of decision relating to the decision to install a mast at Drumcondra Station

Following the publication in 1996 of a directive that required all member states to implement on board and trackside systems that enable trains to operate seamlessly across the evolving European high speed rail network, in 2005 a feasibility study was undertaken to determine a replacement strategy for the existing analogue radio system, Iarnród Éireann (IE) decided to adopt GSM-R as a replacement technology. This study detailed the requirements for provision of fixed infrastructure required to roll out this GSM-R system. This was followed by a site-by-site examination of the IE portfolio and configuration of the base-station antenna system based on local coverage targets.

IE has prepared its existing 128 sites to allow for the GSM-R panel antennas to be installed so as to optimise its existing sites. Alongside this, additional sites were determined based on the importance of railway nodes (major junctions, stations etc) and extrapolation of the existing sites to provide 900MHz voice coverage.

The radio cell planning for the Greater Dublin Area was the put out to tender so that companies could tender for the design outputs for the GSM-R coverage of the Greater Dublin Area. The winning contractor then had responsibility for further assessing each site and determining where best to place the radio masts for the GSM-R system. All surveys, documents and details relating to this decision were kept by the contractor and is deemed as commercially sensitive and confidential information under the terms of the contract between IE and its contractor.