



Board Direction

Ref: PL 18.246452

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting of all available board members held on 18th August 2016.

The Board decided to defer consideration of this case and to issue a Section 132 notice to the applicant regarding the following:

The Board considers that the proposed removal of the confessional boxes and doors at either end of both transepts may have a significant negative impact on this protected structure and considers that their removal has not been justified on liturgical grounds. The Board notes that these confessional boxes date from circa 1930, that they were designed to fit specifically into the width of each transept, that they reflect in their decoration certain of the stone decorative elements on the walls to the apse, that they are carved and notes that they are of considerable interest both from a cultural and historical point of view, forming part of the historical layering of the building. The Board further notes that their retention could be incorporated without substantially affecting the proposed revised layout of the church.

The Board has an obligation under S57 of the act to respect liturgical requirements. The Board therefore requests the applicant to confirm whether the removal of the confessional boxes is required by liturgical requirements or whether their retention would be incompatible with current liturgy and the reasons for this.

The Board notes, further to the provisions of *Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship- Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, issued by the D0EHLG in November 2003 that the liturgical authority in this matter is at a Diocesan level.

In the event that the relevant liturgical authorities consider that the removal of the confessional boxes is required by current liturgy, the applicant is asked to comment on the possibility of salvage of the principal elements of

the confession boxes and their incorporation into another part of the building.

(Allow 4 weeks)

Circulate to parties for comment on receipt.

Board Member: _____ Date: 23rd August 2016

Michael Leahy