



External Member of Audit and Risk Committee

An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified individuals to serve as External Members of the An Coimisiún Pleanála Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).

This is an opportunity to contribute independent oversight, strategic insight and constructive challenge to support strong governance, effective risk management, and robust assurance processes in a complex regulatory environment.

In addition to audit and risk experience, An Coimisiún Pleanála would welcome applications with skills in information technology, cybersecurity and digital transformation within a complex multidisciplinary environment, together with an understanding of governance in a state body context.

There is currently one vacancy on the Audit and Risk Committee and An Coimisiún Pleanála plans to create a panel from this competition which could be used to fill vacancies which might arise over the next two years.

Background

An Coimisiún Pleanála was formally established on 18 June 2025, under Part 17 of the Planning and Development Act 2024. The organisation was formerly An Bord Pleanála, established in 1977 under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1976. An Coimisiún Pleanála is responsible for the determination of appeals, direct applications for strategic infrastructure development cases and certain other matters under the Planning and Development Act (2000 and 2024 as amended), and associated legislation. It is also responsible for dealing with proposals for the compulsory acquisition of land by local authorities and others under

various enactments. The Commission also has functions to determine appeals under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts and the Building Control Acts.

An Coimisiún Pleanála is the Competent Authority for Project of Common Interest under European Regulation No. 347/2013 which deals with trans-European energy infrastructure.

More details about An Coimisiún Pleanála including its accounts and annual reports are published on www.pleanala.ie

About the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

An Coimisiún Pleanála has established an Audit and Risk Committee as a Committee of An Coimisiún Pleanála to support it in its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance by reviewing the comprehensiveness of assurances in meeting An Coimisiún Pleanála and Accountable Officer's (Chief Executive Officer/Chief Officer) assurance needs and reviewing the reliability and integrity of these assurances. The ARC is composed of Board Members from An Coimisiún Pleanála Governing Board and external members, with the Chair of the ARC being a Governing Board Member.

Role of the Audit and Risk Committee Members

The Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the Governing Board of An Coimisiún Pleanála.

As an External Member of the ARC, you will contribute independent advice and strategic insight to the Committee, and contribute to the Committee's constructive challenge of, and support to An Coimisiún Pleanála and its management.

The role is advisory and non-executive, supporting the Committee's oversight of governance, risk management, internal control, audit and assurance arrangements, including financial and other reporting, internal controls, risk management frameworks and compliance obligations.

Given the increasing importance of digital risk, this role will bring increased specialist insight into digital and technology-related risks, including cyber resilience, data and information governance, and digital transformation related risk.

The Audit and Risk Committee is supported in its role by An Coimisiún Pleanála Internal Auditor, an externally procured service provider, and an appropriately resourced Secretariat. The Internal Auditor will report to the Audit and Risk Committee on professional matters

Key responsibilities include:

- Providing independent advice and insight to assist the Committee in supporting An Coimisiún Pleanála and its management;
- Reviewing An Coimisiún Pleanála accounting policies, financial statements, and the annual report of the organisation, including the process for review of the financial statements prior to submission for audit, levels of error identified, and management's letter of representation to the external auditors;
- Contributing, as a Committee Member, to the Committee's oversight of risk management, including risk appetite and the identification, assessment, mitigation and monitoring of digital and technology-related risks;
- Reviewing internal and external audit findings and An Coimisiún Pleanála implementation of audit recommendations;
- Assessing and commenting upon the effectiveness of internal controls, compliance frameworks, and governance processes;
- Oversight of digital transformation related risk, including the appropriateness of An Coimisiún Pleanála IT strategy, digital transformation opportunities and initiatives, and the effective management of associated risks; and
- Participating as a Committee Member in identifying emerging risks including the evolution of cyber threats and regulatory developments and helping ensure that they are appropriately considered by the Committee and management.

Person Specification:

It is expected that the person appointed will have experience in at least two of the following:

- Information technology; cybersecurity, digital transformation; and/or technology risk management,
- A strong understanding of and experience in, the implementation of public sector governance arrangements, including risk management frameworks, internal controls and associated reporting,
- Proven ability to operate at a strategic level, with sound judgement and analytical capability,
- independence, integrity, and the ability to provide objective and constructive challenge,
- Excellent communication skills, with the ability to engage effectively with senior stakeholders and
- An understanding of regulatory, compliance, and assurance environments.
- Evaluating financial statements including review of the breadth and complexity of issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by An Coimisiún Pleanála financial statements, or experience oversight of one or more persons engaged in such activities.

Time commitment

The ARC formally meets four times per year, with additional time required for meeting preparation and review of materials. The Chairperson of the Committee may convene additional meetings as he/she deems necessary.

Remuneration

A fee of €299.25 gross will be paid for each meeting attended. Travel and subsistence are payable at rates set by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. 'One Person One Salary' principle will apply.

Period of appointment

The appointment is for an initial term of three years, with the possibility of renewal for a further term in accordance with An Coimisiún Pleanála's governance arrangements.

Training

An Coimisiún Pleanála provides induction training to members of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee.

Conflict of Interest

The Committee member will receive remuneration as set out above but may not accept any other consulting or advisory or compensatory fees from An Coimisiún Pleanála. Prohibited compensation includes that received for services rendered by a law firm, accounting firm, consulting firm or similar entity in which the Audit and Risk Committee member (or a member of his or her immediate family) is a partner, executive officer, or the equivalent.

Members of An Coimisiún Pleanála Audit and Risk Committee are required to declare any potential conflict of interest with any of the business items on the agenda for Audit and Risk Committee meetings and complete an annual Register of Interests return.

How to Apply

To express your interest, please submit the following by 22nd October 2026:

- A current CV,
- A short supporting statement outlining your relevant experience and qualifications, and motivation for being considered for appointment.

Applications should be sent to: Ms. Fran Barrett by email at governance@pleanala.ie

Equality and Diversity

An Coimisiún Pleanála is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes expressions of interest from candidates with a broad range of backgrounds, experience and perspectives.

Data Protection

An Coimisiún Pleanála will process any personal data provided by you in connection with an application for this role in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Acts 2018. The data will be kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which that data is processed, and it shall be kept in a manner that ensure appropriate security of the data including the unauthorised or unlawful processing of data.

If your application is successful for the role as external member on the Audit and Risk Committee, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance with the specified reason of Committee membership and your data will not be held longer than is necessary.