



Publication of An Bord Pleanála's Annual Report and Accounts for 2019

An Bord Pleanála published the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts today [28 July 2020].

Planning Casework and Performance Highlights

In overall terms, the upward trend in the number of planning cases received continued, with the number of cases last year at 2,939, up 7% on the 2,734 cases received in 2018.

The total number of cases decided in 2019 was 2,971 which is a 4% increase on 2018 (2,848).

Normal Planning Appeals (NPAs)

The number of planning appeals received remained substantially unchanged from 2,028 in 2018 to 2,076 in 2019, with these types of cases constituting 71% of all cases submitted to the Board. An overall compliance rate of 69% was achieved in concluding NPAs within the statutory objective period (SOP) of 18 weeks, a significant improvement on the 39% compliance recorded in 2018.

The average number of weeks for dealing with normal planning appeals was 18.4 weeks, on average just 3 days over the SOP target and notably down from the 2018 average of 22.4 weeks.

Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs)

2019 was another busy year for dealing with Strategic Housing Development (SHD) applications, with a total of 119 valid applications received, a significant increase on the 39 applications received in 2018.

In all, 82 applications were formally decided by the Board with permission granted in 68 cases (83%) and permission refused in 14 cases (17%). 68 decisions were granted for a total of 16,607 residential units (4,334 houses and 12,273 apartments); 5,019 student bedspaces; and 208 'shared accommodation' bedspaces.

Notwithstanding the increase of SHD applications, the Board maintained 100% compliance with the statutory decision timelines (16 weeks, or 24 weeks for cases where an oral hearing is held).

Strategic Infrastructure Developments (SID)

A total of 26 strategic infrastructure applications were received from local authorities, private developers, and statutory undertakers, up 30% on the 2018 figures. Decisions were made on 21 proposals during 2019.

In publishing the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts, Dave Walsh, Chairperson of An Bord Pleanála, welcomed the improved performance by the organisation in turning around applications and appeals.

“Clearing the case backlog which had built up over the last couple of years has enabled us to significantly improve our compliance with the statutory objective target of 18 weeks for planning appeal cases, meeting the target in almost 70% of cases. We are continuing to prioritise making decisions as expeditiously as possible on strategic housing and infrastructure case decisions.

Despite the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, during which time the Board's offices remained open to the public, continuity of operations were maintained and staff adapted and adjusted through all the challenges presented. Overall performance was maintained in the first half of 2020 and we are striving to maintain this high level of performance for the duration of 2020."

End.

[28 July 2020]