

Eolas a sheoladh chuig baill den Oireachtas ón mBord Pleanála / Provision of information to members of the Oireachtas by An Bord Pleanála

Ráithe 3 2021: 1 Iúil 2021 go 30 Meán Fómhair 2021 / Quarter 3 2021: 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021

Uimhir na ceiste Query Number	Dáta faighte Date Received	Dáta admhála Acknowledged	Teachta Dála / Seanadóir Deputy / Senator	An t-ábhar a bhí i gceist Query Subject	Ceist Query	Freagra substainteach eisithe Substantive Reply Issued	Freagra substainteach Substantive Reply	Teanga Language	Ráithe Quarter	Bliain Year
OIR/21/024	21/07/2021	23/07/2021	Senator Victor Boyhan	Other	Request for an update on the content of the attached communication in relation to the ABP rollout of I-Planning.	05/08/2021	<p>Following successful testing and feedback on accessibility from the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA), An Bord Pleanála initiated an online facility on the 30th of November, 2020, to enable members of the public make submissions, with fee payment, in relation to Strategic Housing Development applications. This pilot project operated without any major problems and there was a significant volume of submissions lodged using this channel.</p> <p>In April 2021, the Board launched its new website. An Bord Pleanála worked very closely with NALA in terms of the content and how information is presented on the site in the context of accessibility. There are enhanced search capabilities with easy access to case information and details of ongoing and upcoming oral hearings. The search functionality is expected to be further expanded over the coming months to allow for search capabilities through online maps.</p>	EN	Q3	2021

							<p>The feedback received since the launch of the new site has been very positive, but to ensure and assist with the continued development and enhancement of online services, an external company is currently carrying out specific feedback from targeted user groups such as the public, agents, local authorities etc.</p> <p>Our in-house team has now turned its focus to provide additional facilities to enable online submissions including fee payments in relation to Strategic Infrastructure Development applications, and following that, observations in relation to normal planning appeals, both expected in the autumn. In addition, but subject to necessary legislative change, An Bord Pleanála would intend to then seek to prioritise the ability for the public to make online normal planning appeals.</p>			
OIR/21/023	22/07/2021	23/07/2021	Minister Simon Harris	SID/LAP Case (Live)	To enquire about the process to decide whether an Oral Hearing will be conducted in respect of PA27.309991 (Development and operation of an inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry to original ground level at Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands,	12/08/2021	<p>In accordance with Section 134 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the decision as to whether to hold an oral hearing in any case is at the absolute discretion of An Bord Pleanála. Accordingly oral hearings are not required to be held in respect of any such proposed strategic infrastructure development application.</p> <p>At this point in time no decision has been made as to whether an oral hearing is to be held in</p>	EN	Q3	2021

					Kilbride, Co. Wicklow) and to clarify whether Oral Hearings must be held in respect of all SID applications.		this case, but it is anticipated that a decision on this will be made in the next few weeks. Participants in the case will then be notified of the position.			
OIR/21/025	27/07/2021	28/07/2021	Senator Victor Boyhan	Other	Request for a hard copy of the latest Annual Report.	29/07/2021	Please note that the Annual Report for 2020 is not yet ready for publication/release but will be posted to you as requested as soon as it is available.	EN	Q3	2021
OIR/21/026	16/08/2021	17/08/2021	Carol Nolan TD	Appeal Case (Live)	To seek an update on the status of the planning application made by Banagher Chilling Limited for the development at Boheradurrow and Meenwaun, Banagher, Co. Offaly. R42 HX24. (PL19. 308004).	02/09/2021	Please note that this appeal case is ongoing and is under further consideration. When the Inspector's Report is discharged, it will go to the Board for formal consideration. Most cases are decided by the Board within a short period of receipt of the Inspector's Report and recommendation.	EN	Q3	2021
OIR/21/027	25/08/2021	27/08/2021	Senator Victor Boyhan	Admin	Request for inspector's report and related documents in relation to case PL06D. 309240.	27/08/2021	Please follow the links below where you will find your requested documents. - Case webpage - Inspector's Report - Order - Direction	EN	Q3	2021
OIR/21/030	10/09/2021	13/09/2021	Carol Nolan TD	Staffing Levels / HR	To ask what measures are being taking to promote or facilitate remote working for staff in his Department or bodies under the aegis of his Department; the costs this has generated in terms of the	29/09/2021	In relation to An Bord Pleanála it is the case that, as part of a system deemed as an essential service by Government decision (the planning system), the public office of An Bord Pleanála has remained open and accessible throughout the period of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions and its full operations have continued in that period. This public access and operational continuity has	EN	Q3	2021

					<p>provision of laptops, desktop computers or contributions to wi-fi costs or phone-related expenses; the number of staff who have applied for permission to work from home on a permanent or hybrid-model basis (details supplied)</p>		<p>been arranged fully in compliance with all prevailing public health requirements and guidance from Central Government and associated health authorities.</p> <p>The foregoing arrangements have involved various elements of hybrid working for certain staff with rotation between office attendance and home working. Some work roles, such as that of Planning Inspectorate staff, has in any event traditionally involved out of office working as a standard feature and that was continued and extended as required for those personnel over the last 18 months.</p> <p>Having regard to prevailing arrangements and associated technological support already in place, An Bord Pleanála supported the necessary extension of remote working arising from compliance with the Covid-19 pandemic health and safety requirements by purchasing a certain amount of additional laptop computers for use by the full range of staff in that context. The total cost of such additional technological support was approximately €80,000 over that period.</p> <p>Arrangements in respect of hybrid working were determined by An Bord Pleanála management by reference to health and safety and business operational requirements and are continuously kept under review in those contexts.</p>			
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OIR/21/028	15/09/2021	19/09/2021	Senator Mary Fitzpatrick	Housing	To seek a copy of the decision for the case TA29N. 310327 by email. Also, to seek a link to the public submissions made on the application.	22/09/2021	<p>Please note that the Board's decision and its inspector's report are posted on the Board's website and can be accessed using the link below.</p> <p>https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/310327</p> <p>Please be advised that the 44 public submissions received in respect of this application are not available on our website but the inspector's report summaries the issues raised in those submissions at section 7 of that report (pages 26 to 36). A list of the persons who made submissions is set out at pages 2-3 of the inspector's report. Should you wish to view hard copies of these submissions this can be arranged using the Board's public access system which can be contacted at publicaccess@pleanala.ie.</p>	EN	Q3	2021
OIR/21/029	29/09/2021	01/10/2021	Noel Grealish TD	SID/LAP Case (Live)	An update and clarity of when the Galway City Ring Road case will be decided.	30/09/2021	I can confirm that the Board's target date for decision on this particular case has been extended to the 19th November next. The case is at Board level and it has been extended due to the complexity of issues involved in respect of the case.	EN	Q3	2021