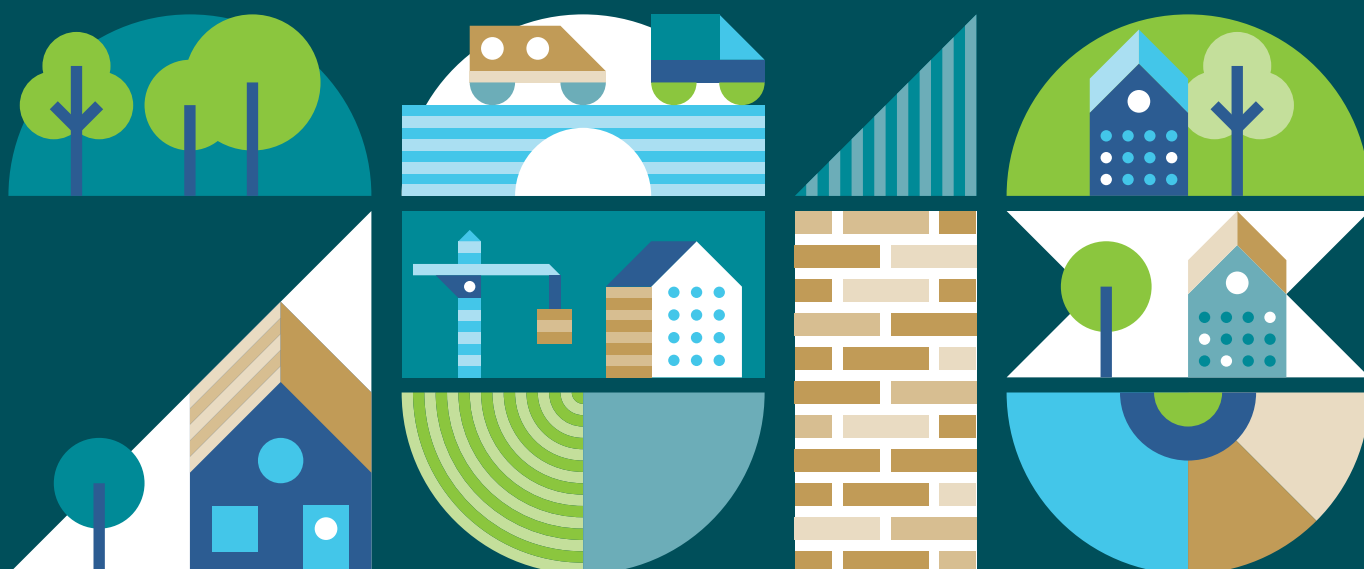




Annual Report and Accounts 2018



Mission

To play our part as an independent national body in an impartial, efficient and open manner, to ensure that physical development and major infrastructure projects in Ireland respect the principles of sustainable development, including the protection of the environment.

Mandate

An Bord Pleanála was established in 1977 under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1976 and is responsible for the determination of appeals and certain other matters under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018 and determination of direct applications for Strategic Infrastructure and Housing Developments.

It is also responsible for dealing with proposals for the compulsory acquisition of land by local authorities and others under various enactments. An Bord Pleanála also determines appeals under the Water Pollution and Building Control Acts.

Annual Report and Accounts 2018

**To the Minister for Housing, Planning
and Local Government.**

**In accordance with the Planning and
Development Acts (as amended),
An Bord Pleanála herewith presents
its Annual Report and Accounts for
the year ending 31st December 2018.**



Dave Walsh
Chairperson



Loretta Lambkin
Chief Officer

28th June 2019

Summary 2018

Operations	2018		2017	
Planning Cases Received	2,734		2,570	
Planning Cases Disposed	2,847		2,143	
Operations	Received	Disposed	Received	Disposed
Normal Planning Appeals	2,028	2,158	2,041	1,742
Strategic Infrastructure Development (Private Entities / Statutory Undertakers)	78	55	41	38
Strategic Infrastructure Development (Local Authority)	13	16	23	17
Other Local Authority Projects ¹	132	127	106	83
Strategic Housing Development Applications	44	44	13	0
Vacant Site Levy	99	87	41	15
Other Case Types	340	360	305	248
Finance	2018		2017	
Income	€		€	
Oireachtas Grant	17,487,581		17,099,682	
Fees / Recoupment	4,054,751		3,024,473	
Other ²	2,870,372		3,063,246	
Total Income	24,412,704		23,187,401	
Expenditure	24,050,972		22,118,022	
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before appropriations	361,732		1,069,379	
Transfer from / (to) the Capital Account	190,080		(498,959)	
Surplus / (Deficit) for year after appropriations	551,812		570,420	

¹ Includes Appropriate Assessment² Includes Net Deferred Pension Funding, Deposit Interest and Miscellaneous Income.

At A Glance 2018

Planning
Cases
Received:

2734



Planning
Cases
Disposed:

2847

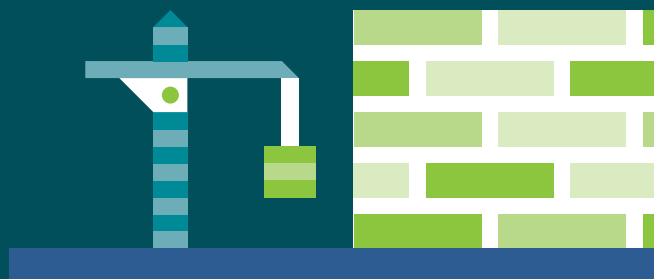


Normal Planning
Appeals
Received:

2028

Normal Planning
Appeals
Disposed:

2158

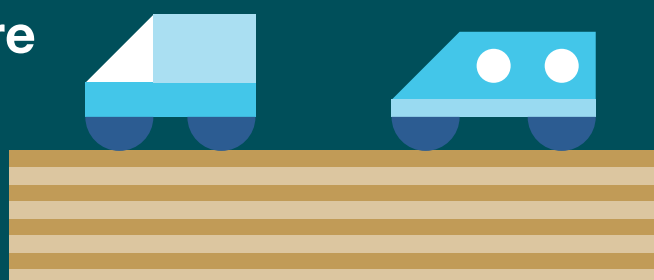


Strategic Housing
Developments
Formally Decided:

39

Strategic Infrastructure
Developments
Disposed:

71



Contents

Summary 2018	4
At A Glance 2018	5
Chairperson's Statement	9
01. Planning Casework and Performance	12
All Planning Cases	13
Planning Appeals	15
Strategic Infrastructure Development	20
Strategic Housing Development	23
Other Significant Case Types	25
Oral Hearings	26
Reports and Recommendations	27
02. Corporate Matters	28
Strategic Plan 2018-2023	29
Legal Proceedings	30
Human Resources	31
Implementation of ICT Strategy	32
Communications	33
Energy Efficiency	36
03. Governance Matters	38
Members of the Board	39
Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies	40
Risk Management	40
Procurement	40
Prompt Payments	41
Data Protection and GDPR	42
Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	42
Ethics in Public Office	42

04. Governance Report & Financial Statements	44
Governance Statement and Board Members' Report	45
Statement of Compliance	51
Statement on Internal Control	52
Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	54
Statement of Comprehensive Income	55
Statement of Financial Position	56
Statement Of Cash Flows	57
Notes to the Financial Statements	58
Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General	75
Appendices	78
Appendix 1	79
Appendix 2	80
Appendix 3	82



Chairperson's Statement

I am delighted to present my first Annual Report as Chairperson of An Bord Pleanála. Having joined the organisation in November 2018, I have had the privilege of working with a hugely committed and experienced staff and Board in delivering on our strategically important mandate to expedite timely and robust decisions on planning cases. In particular, we are focusing on proposals for large-scale housing and strategic infrastructure developments within the context of the Government's Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness and the National Planning Framework, Project Ireland 2040.

I would like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the former Chairperson, Dr. Mary Kelly, whose term of office ended in August 2018 after seven years with An Bord Pleanála. During her term, Dr. Kelly oversaw the expansion of the Board's statutory functions in 2017 in relation to the Strategic Housing Developments process, supported the ongoing development of the new Plean-IT case processing system which will ultimately facilitate the on-line submission of cases and appeals to the Board and also helped to shape the preparation of our 5-year Strategic Plan out to 2023. I hope to build on the work she initiated and will seek to maintain the highest professional standards of integrity, transparency and efficiency in our decision-making throughout the organisation.

Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023

In August 2018, the Board published a five-year Strategic Plan, recognising and reinforcing the organisation's critical role in considering and determining planning appeals and major housing and infrastructure proposals and delivering those decisions as quickly and effectively as possible.

While this is of course a multi-annual Strategy out to 2023, there are a number of initiatives and actions that we are prioritising to help deliver on these objectives. High among these priorities is making sure we have the right number and profile of staff to deliver on our remit. Resource requirements for the next two years have been set out in our Workforce Plan 2019-20 which was recently submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for consideration.

Performance

As always, we are conscious that processing and deciding cases in a timely manner is critical to enabling development across all sectors. In 2018, we recorded a 32% increase in the number of cases decided over the previous year with over 2,800 decisions made. During the 12 months, the Board convened over 940 times to consider, discuss and decide on these cases.

Notwithstanding our increased productivity, our compliance rate with the statutory objective timelines to decide cases dipped to just over 40% (from 64% in 2017 and 80% the year before), primarily due to the impact of the transition to the new Plean-IT system and an increased case-load. However, in November and December alone, we decided almost 600 cases (up 36% on the same months in 2017) and reduced the number of cases on hands by more than 300 from over 1,355 to just over 1,000 files.

Our focus in the last six months of 2018 and into 2019 has been to process and decide those cases longest with An Bord Pleanála which has meant that many of the cases determined towards the end of the year were already beyond the 18-week period. While this has had a consequential impact on our compliance rate, we plan to clear the backlog to get back to a compliance rate of 60% - 70% by the end of 2019. Already by the end of May, the compliance rate for appeals decided has improved to almost 59%.

The Board's performance in relation to managing and deciding Strategic Housing Developments (SHD) has been very strong, with 39 cases formally decided during 2018, all well within their 16-week statutory target. In overall terms, permission was granted for over 7,100 housing units and almost 4,500 student bed-spaces during 2018, which represent a vital contribution to the overall increase in residential activity across the country. We expect a significant increase in housing applications in 2019, reflecting the ongoing demand for pre-application consultations. In the first five months of 2019, 41 valid applications have already been received and 23 formal decisions issued. We will continue to prioritise these cases and deal with any large-scale housing appeals expeditiously.

National Planning Framework

The 2018 National Planning Framework (NPF) and the emerging Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies set a clear priority for appropriate development in the right locations to facilitate the sustainable and orderly growth of our cities, towns and rural hinterlands, and An Bord Pleanála has a clear role in implementing such policies through efficient processing of case decisions.

A key area that is critical at national and regional level to realising the ambitious objectives of the NPF is strategic infrastructure development. In addition to prioritising the consideration of these cases lodged directly with An Bord Pleanála, we are also undertaking a review of our SID processes. This includes a review of protocols and processes for pre-application consultations, to learn and apply lessons from our own and participants' experiences in the past and to identify ways to streamline and ensure that we are operating as efficiently as possible to facilitate robust and swift decisions on major proposals.

Plean-IT (ICT Strategy)

The roll-out and refinement of our Plean-IT project remains a significant initiative and will ultimately enable applications and appeals to be made on-line, linking in with the local authorities' own e-Planning initiative. Following significant work and improvement to the case management system, An Bord Pleanála is beginning work on a new website to make it easier to find information and a dedicated web portal for implementation in 2020.

Board Membership

I would also like to acknowledge the significant contributions of Conall Boland, Board member for twelve years (six as Deputy Chairperson), and Eugene Nixon, Board member, who both completed their terms of office in December 2018. They have set the standard to which the current and future Boards must match and strive to surpass.

In addition to my own appointment, three new Board members have joined us since the start of 2018 - Michelle Fagan, Stephen Bohan and Chris McGarry. This brings the Board membership to 10. I would like to welcome these new members to An Bord Pleanála and to acknowledge the particular skills, experiences and expertise that they bring with them. Thanks also to my other colleagues on the Board for their continued hard work, energy and commitment.

Thanks are due also to our Audit and Risk Committee and, in particular, Martin Higgins who is our external Committee Chairperson, Patricia Byron who has been an external member on the Committee since April 2018, replacing Jim Hurley. I would also like to acknowledge the Board members who participated on the Committee during 2018 – Terry Ó Niadh, Philip Jones and Michelle Fagan - for guiding the work of the Committee during the year and for assisting the Board with their important corporate governance work.

As ever, An Bord Pleanála relies on the support of its parent Department and I would like to extend my thanks to Minister Eoghan Murphy TD and his officials in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for their support during the year. As the largest planning body in the country, with exposure to a wide range of case types and issues, it is incumbent on the Board to support the Department, planning authorities and the new Office of the Planning Regulator to ensure that planning policies are practical, consistent and clearly understood by all.

Lastly, to all the staff, I would like to extend my gratitude for the warm welcome and support I have received in my first months here as Chairperson. I am looking forward to working with you all as we carry out the important work of making robust planning decisions in a timely manner, in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

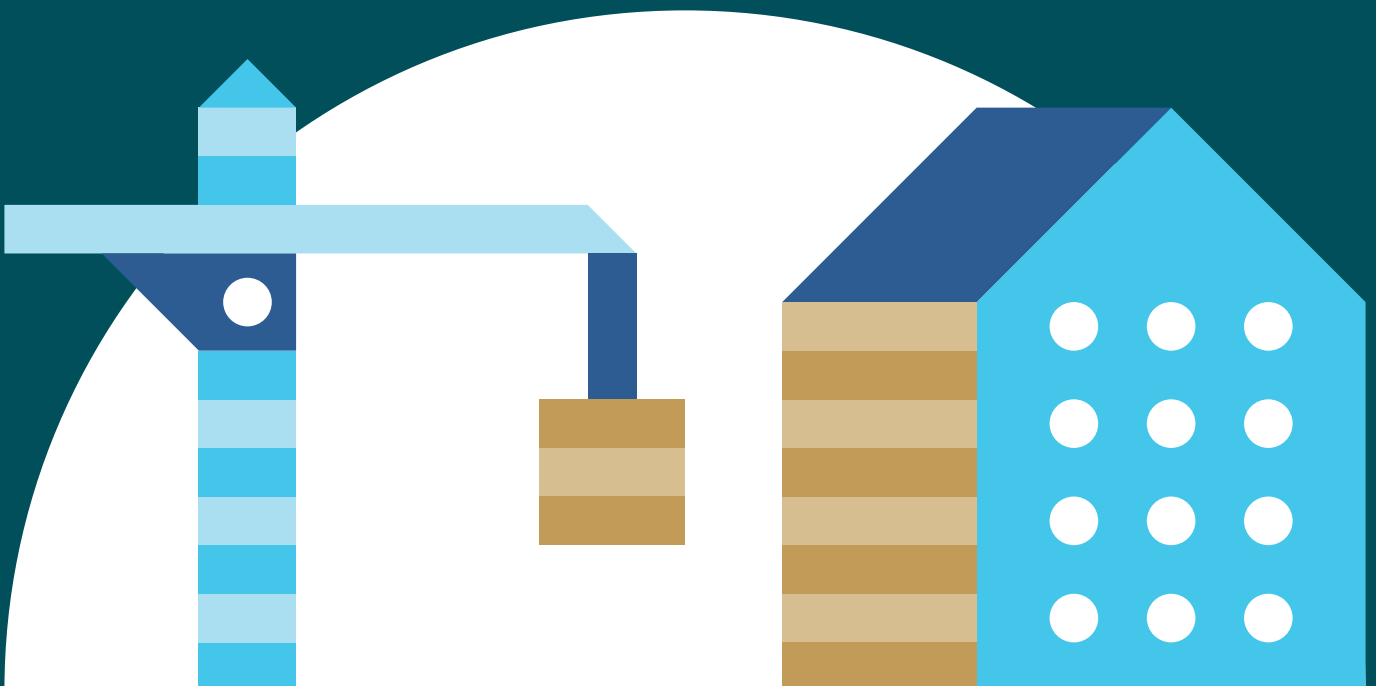


Mr Dave Walsh,
Chairperson

Date: 13th June 2019

01. Planning Casework and Performance

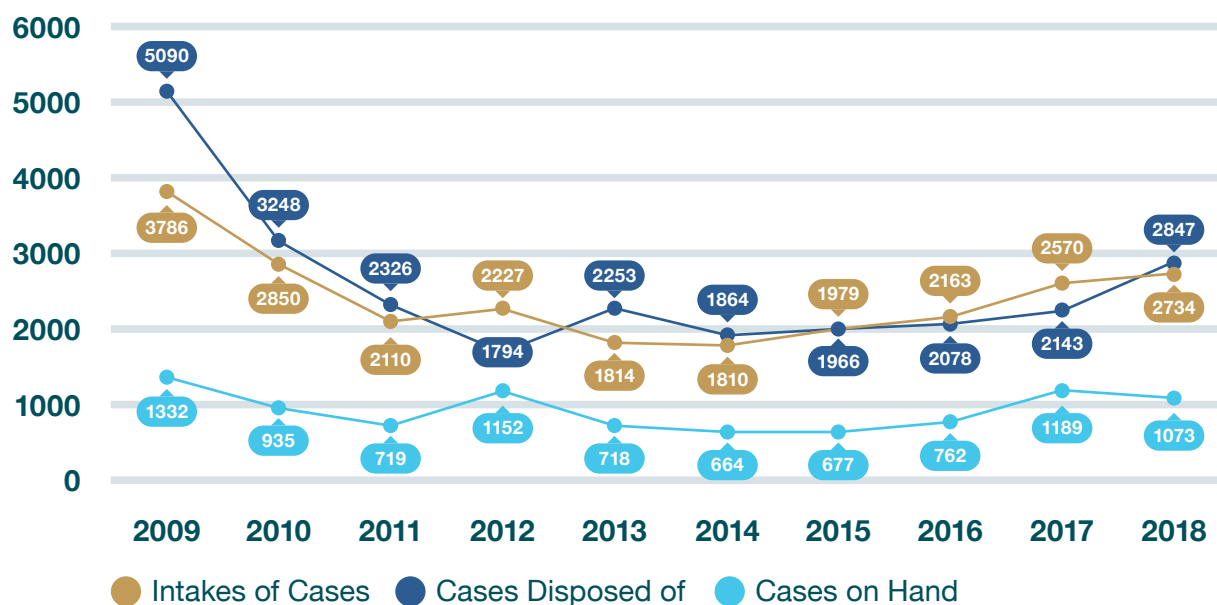
- All Planning Cases
- Planning Appeals
- Strategic Infrastructure Development
- Strategic Housing Development
- Other Significant Case Types
- Oral Hearings
- Reports and Recommendations



All Planning Cases

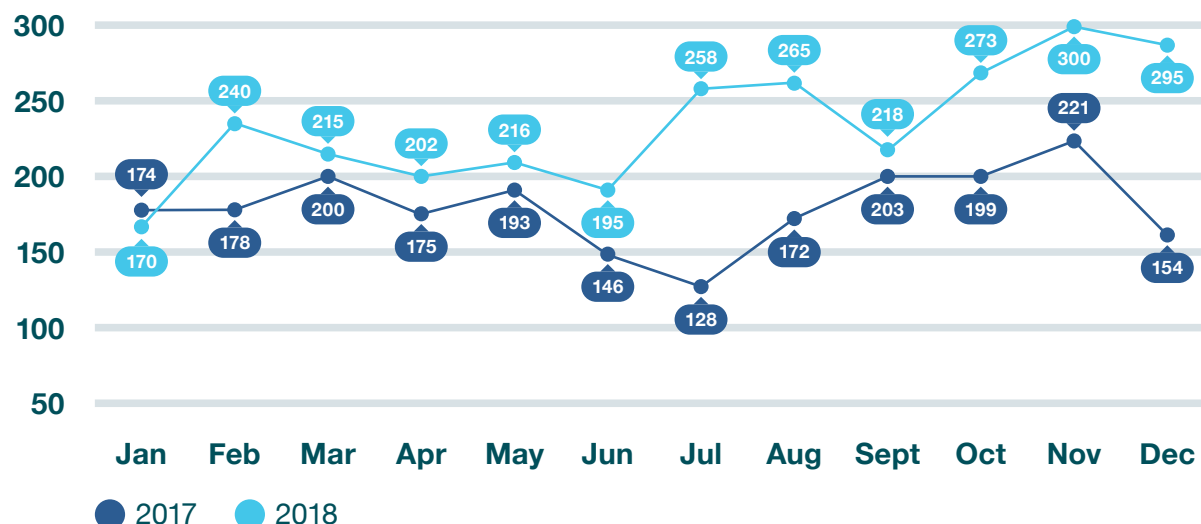
In 2018, there continued to be an upward trend in the number of planning cases received with total case intake up 6% to 2,734 from 2,570 in 2017 (Figure 1). The total number of cases decided in 2018 was 2,847, a 32% increase on the previous year (2,143). By year end, the total number of cases on hands was 1,073, down from 1,189 in 2017.

Figure 1: Intake and Disposal of Cases 2009 - 2018



In November and December alone in 2018 (Figure 2), almost 600 cases were decided (up 35% on the same months in 2017).

Figure 2: All Planning Cases – Disposed per month 2017 v 2018

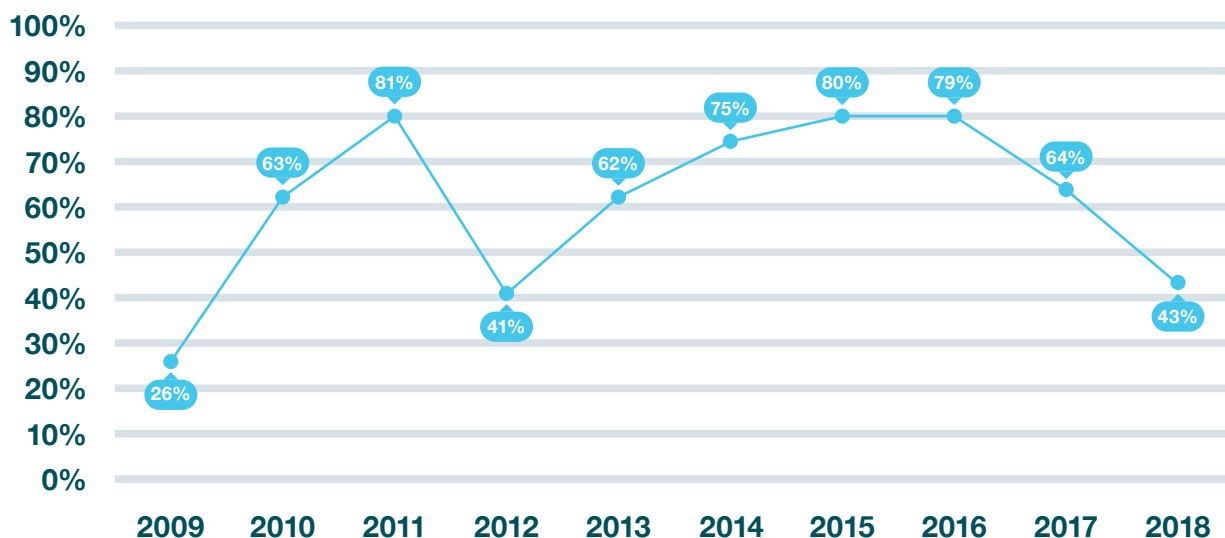


Statutory Objective Periods for Determining Cases

Provisions in the Planning, Building Control and Water Pollution Acts and Regulations made under these Acts set down as an objective of An Bord Pleanála a requirement to ensure that appeals and certain other matters are determined within specified periods of time. In most cases, this is 18 weeks; 4 months applies to some cases while in others no statutory objective time period applies.

In 2018, 43% of all planning cases were decided within the statutory objective period compared to 64% in 2017 (Figure 3). Performance in 2018 was impacted by the transition to our new IT system (Plean-IT), an increase in case-load and reduced Board capacity during 2017.

Figure 3: Compliance with statutory objective period 2014 - 2018



Disposal of cases in weeks

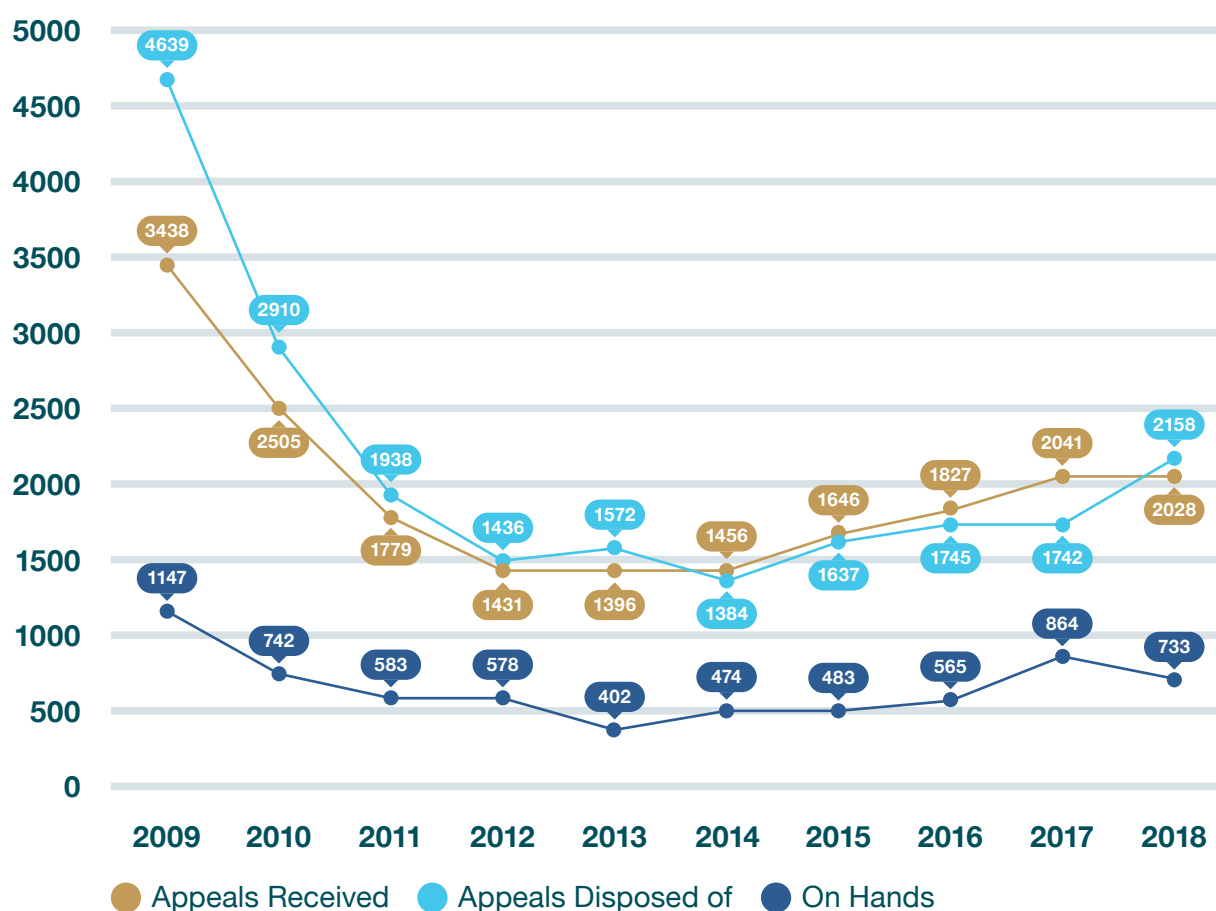
The total average number of weeks that it took to decide all planning cases in 2018 was 23.3 weeks, up from 18 weeks in 2017.

Planning Appeals

Planning appeals arise from decisions by planning authorities on applications for permission for the development of land.

The number of planning appeals received in 2018 was 2,028 making up 74% of all cases submitted to the Board, substantially unchanged from the number received in 2017 (2,041).

Figure 4: Planning Appeals – Intake and Disposal



The number of appeals disposed in 2018 was up significantly on the previous year at 2,158 (1,742 in 2017).

At the start of 2018, a target was set to decide 60-70% of planning appeals in 18 weeks within the statutory objective period. This was lower than the previous year's target, given the backlog generated in the previous year.

By year end, the compliance rate for appeals was down to 39% (Table 1), however, in the month of December had improved to 50%. The average number of weeks to decide planning appeals was just over 22 in 2018 (17 weeks in 2017).

Table 1: Normal Planning Appeals

Year	Average No. of Weeks	Compliance Rate (18 weeks)
2014	16	83%
2015	15	83%
2016	16	82%
2017	17	64%
2018	22	39%

For 2019, An Bord Pleanála has set a target to decide 60% - 70% of appeals cases within the statutory objective period, and has already returned the compliance rate to 59% by end of May 2019.

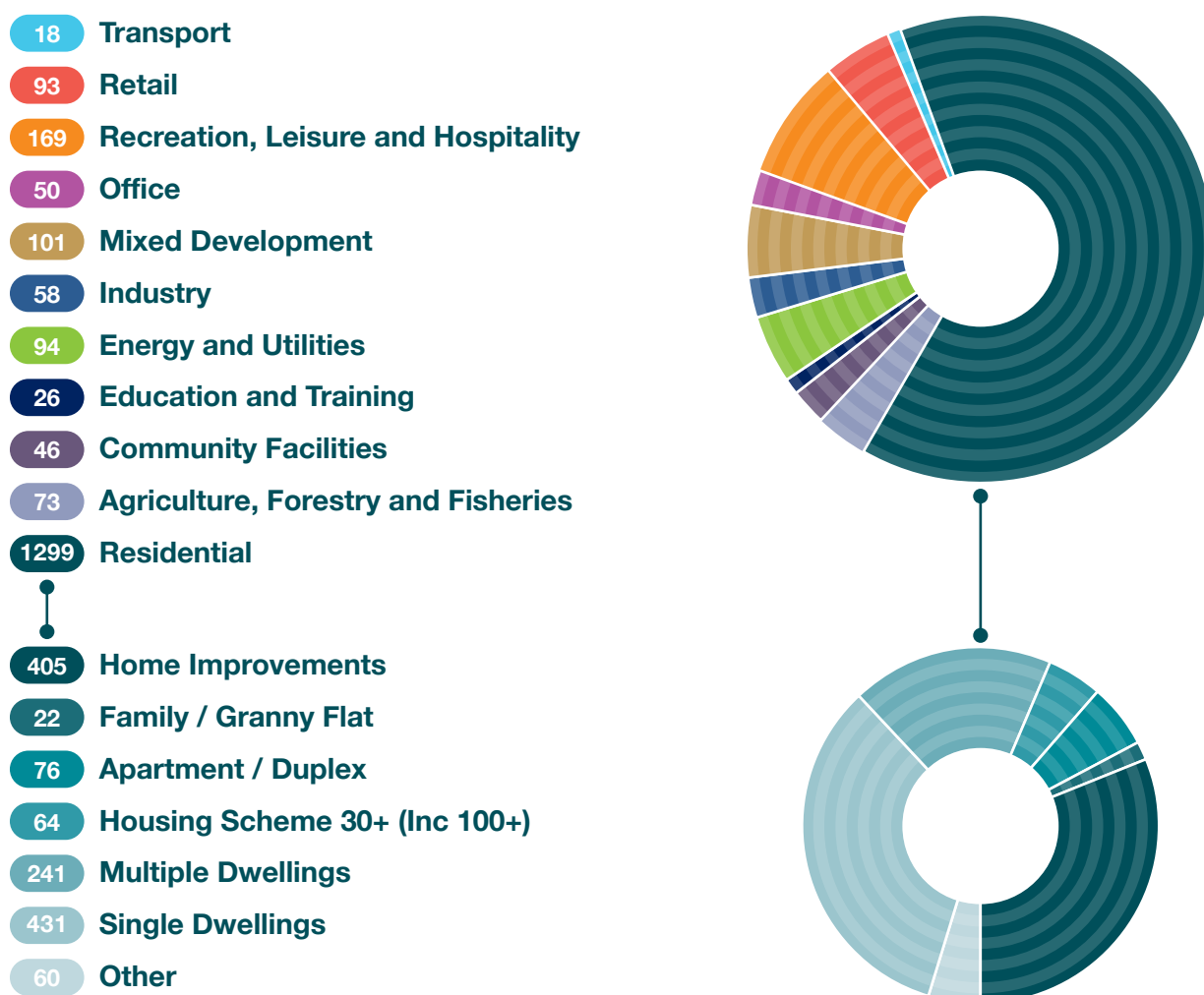
The category 'disposed of otherwise' which includes withdrawals, dismissals and invalids accounted for 15% of all appeals received in 2018. Of the 333 cases in this category, 168 were invalid appeals. These are appeals which have been declared invalid where compliance with certain statutory criteria has not been achieved, for example, late appeals, incorrect fees, or other reasons.



Development Types

64% (1,299) of all appeals received in 2018 related to residential development which range in scale from home improvements to single and multiple unit accommodation (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Planning Appeals by Development Type Received 2018



Priority Appeals

Certain categories of planning appeals are classified as 'Priority Appeals' and are given priority status in order to expedite them through the system.

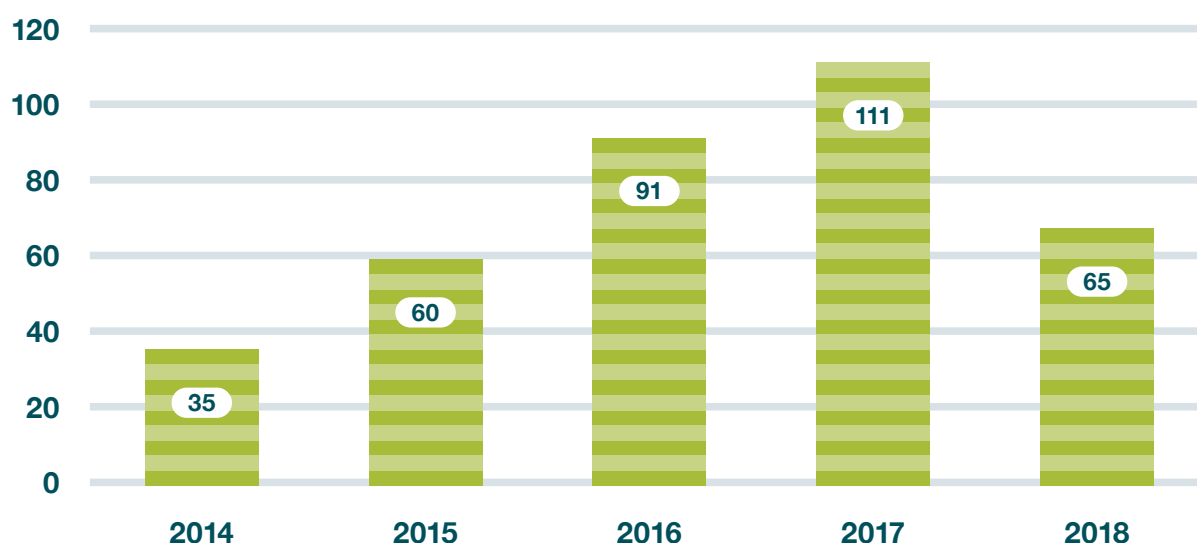
Priority appeals include large-scale commercial, housing, educational and healthcare developments as well as significant infrastructural or other projects prioritised in line with government policy at any particular time. Appeals relating to Strategic Development Zones are also included in this category.

In 2018, examples of the priority cases decided include: a Borrow Pit in Co. Limerick, Film Studios in Co. Wicklow, the Barrow Navigation Blueway in Counties Carlow, Kilkenny and Laois, and housing schemes and student accommodation in Galway, Dublin and Cork.

Housing Appeals

The number of appeals received related to multi-unit (30+) residential developments decreased from 111 in 2017 to 65 in 2018. During 2018, 74 appeals for developments of 30+ housing units were disposed of (25 for 100+ units). This category included developments of more than 100 residential units which are now generally submitted as applications for Strategic Housing Development.

Figure 6: Housing Appeals Received (30+ units)



Strategic Development Zones

A Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) is an area of land that is proposed to contain developments of economic or social importance to the State. Once designated as such by Government, a draft planning scheme for the SDZ is proposed by the relevant development agency and made by the Planning Authority for the area concerned. Draft SDZ planning schemes (and amendments) can be appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

In 2018, An Bord Pleanála received 5 appeals in relation to SDZs, of which 2 were decided by the Board, 2 were invalid and 1 was withdrawn after an oral hearing. One appeal relating to an alteration to an SDZ scheme was also received and decided during the year.

Some of the SDZ cases under consideration in 2018 included a significant quantum of residential development, notably, Balgaddy-Clonburris which is expected to deliver over 8,000 new residential units. In 2018, an oral hearing was held for the appeal of the Poolbeg SDZ which was received in 2017 and is estimated to deliver between 3,000 and 3,500 residential units (238 per hectare). Both cases were decided approving the planning schemes, in 2019.

Appeals by Area

In 2018, 28,785 decisions were made by planning authorities of which 2,028 (or 7%) were appealed to An Bord Pleanála (7.3% in 2017).

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Dublin City Council, and Cork City Council had the highest levels of decisions appealed respectively at 15.9%, 15.4% and 12.6%. Leitrim County Council had the lowest level of decisions appealed at 0.1%.

Table 2: Planning Appeals Received by Area

Planning Authority	Number of planning authority decisions appealed	Percentage of planning authority decisions appealed
All planning authorities	2,028	7.04%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	226	15.9%
Dublin City Council	418	15.4%
Cork City Council	52	12.6%
Galway City Council	42	11.1%
Fingal County Council	121	10.3%
South Dublin County Council	88	10.3%

A table of planning appeals received and decided by area is available in Appendix 2.



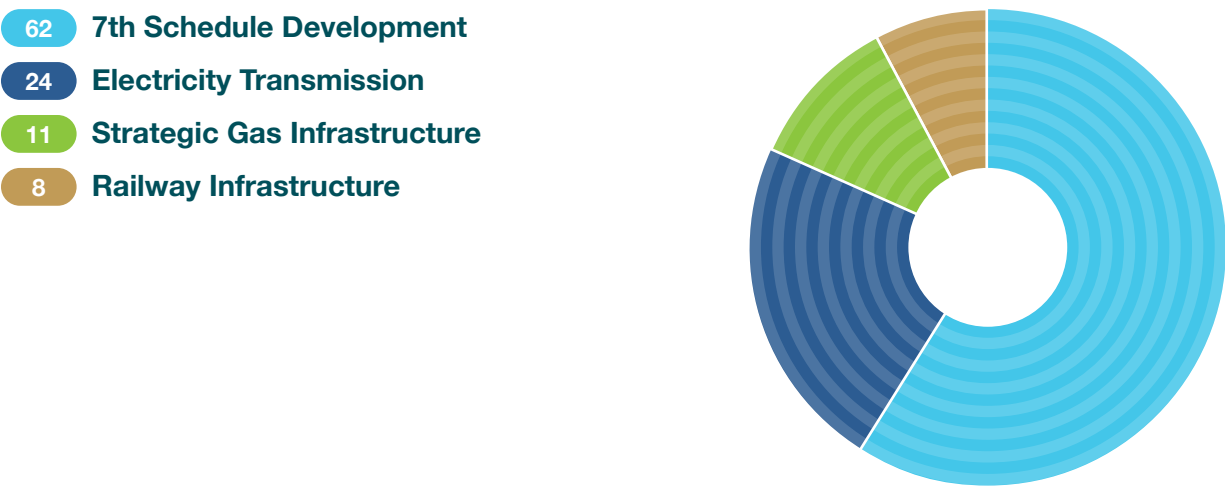
Strategic Infrastructure Development

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, applications for public and private Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) are made directly to An Bord Pleanála.

Private Entities / Statutory Undertakers (Private Applications)

Fourteen private applications were submitted in 2018 with one re-activated case bringing the total number received to 105 since the legislative provisions became operative in 2007.

Figure 7: Breakdown of Strategic Infrastructure Development application cases received to end 2018



Compliance with the relevant statutory objective period for making decisions for this category of cases was at 36% in 2018 which reflects the level of complexity and the fact that additional time is often required to conduct hearings and to consider further information.

During 2018, 6 private strategic infrastructure development applications and two electricity cases were concluded as follows:

Table 3: Strategic Infrastructure Development Applications Concluded 2018	
Waste to Energy Facility, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork	Grant Permission with conditions
Further replacement of fossil fuels with alternative fuels and allow for the introduction of alternative raw material in the manufacturing of cement, Platin Cement Works, Platin, Duleek, Co. Meath	Grant Permission with conditions
Wind farm of 18 turbines at Meenbog, Co. Donegal	Grant Permission with conditions
Wind farm of 47 turbines in Co. Kildare and Co. Meath	Refuse Permission

Table 3: Strategic Infrastructure Development Applications Concluded 2018

Permanent continuance of use of existing 8,480 space long-term car park at Quickpark, Harristown, Dublin Airport, Co. Dublin	Grant Permission with conditions
Port capacity extension, Foynes, Co. Limerick	Grant Permission with conditions
220kV substation compound and other works to facilitate a new data centre campus, Clonee, Co. Meath	Approve with conditions
110kV electrical substation and other works, near Newport and Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary	Refuse to approve

Prior to submitting an application, it is mandatory to have a pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála (with the exception of local authorities). In 2018, 58 requests for pre-application consultations were received for strategic infrastructure development cases, 53 meetings were held and 39 requests were concluded.

Of the 39 requests concluded, 16 were deemed to be strategic infrastructure development, 19 were deemed not to be and 4 were otherwise disposed.

Local Authorities

Six strategic infrastructure applications (including related compulsory acquisition requests) were received from local authorities. In 2018, 6 applications were concluded as follows:

Table 4: Strategic Infrastructure Development (Local Authorities) applications decided in 2018

M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Motorway Scheme, Co. Cork	Approve with conditions
Cork County Council M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Project Motorway Scheme, Protected Road Scheme and Service Area Scheme, 2017 Co. Cork	Approve with modifications
Development of a new civic plaza and ancillary traffic management measures at College Green, Dublin 2	Refuse to approve
Kerdiffstown Landfill Remediation Project at Kerdiffstown, Co. Kildare	Approve with conditions
River Morell Flood Management Scheme, Co. Kildare	Approve with conditions
Construction of a breakwater at Baltimore Harbour, Baltimore, Co. Cork	Refuse to approve

Other Local Authority Cases

An Bord Pleanála has traditionally dealt with cases under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 without an oral hearing. In 2018, two cases were the subject of oral hearings relating to the compulsory purchase of adjoining houses in Drumcondra, Dublin. Following separate oral hearings, the decision of the Board in both cases was to confirm the acquisition by the local authority.

Compulsory Acquisition

There were 115 compulsory acquisition cases concluded in 2018. There were 83 informal decisions, for instance, where no objections were received in Compulsory Purchase Order cases. Of the formally decided cases, 53% were disposed of within the statutory objective period. The cases were concluded as follows:

Table 5: Compulsory acquisition	
Approved with modifications	15
Approved without modifications	2
Annulled	15
Informal decisions	83

In July 2018, the enactment of the Industrial Development (Amendment) Act 2018 provided for the Board to adjudicate on objections in relation to compulsory acquisition by the Industrial Development Authority. The role assigned to An Bord Pleanála is seen as a sign of confidence by the Oireachtas in the Board's independent performance of similar functions over the years. No cases were received in 2018.

Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the potential of a plan or project to adversely affect the integrity of a site which is protected under the EU Habitats Directive. The Competent Authority for such assessment is An Bord Pleanála. Where a local authority project requires Appropriate Assessment or where it needs to be determined whether or not Appropriate Assessment is required, the Competent Authority is An Bord Pleanála.

In 2018, 8 Appropriate Assessment cases were received and 12 concluded. Of these 12 cases, 8 were approved, 3 refused and 1 was determined not to require a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

Strategic Housing Development

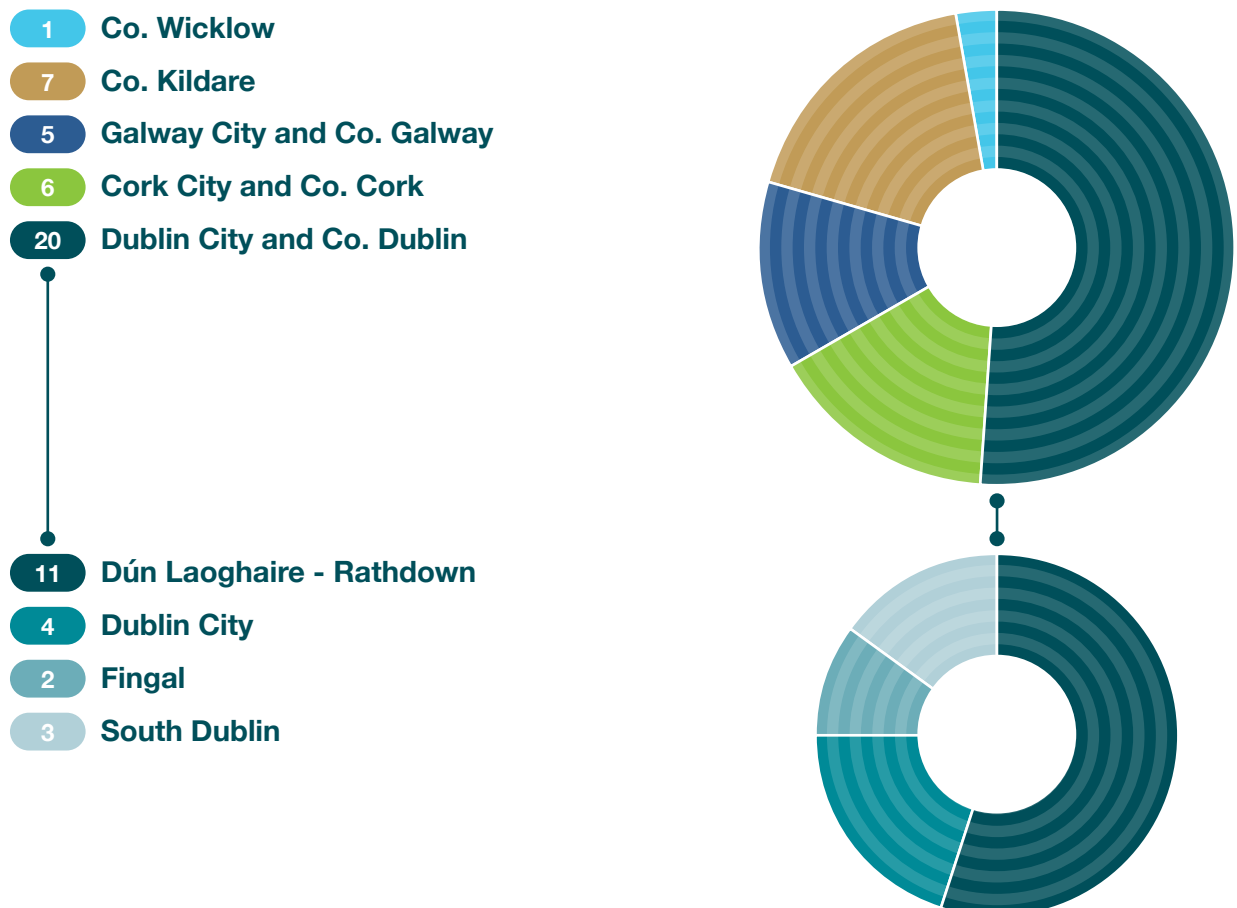
The Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 (as amended by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018) allows for applications for strategic housing developments (100 or more houses, 200 or more bed spaces for student accommodation or 200 or more bed spaces for shared accommodation units) to be made directly to An Bord Pleanála.

During 2017, An Bord Pleanála established a dedicated Strategic Housing Development Unit and a new division of the Board (as required under legislation) to implement this new function and decide on these applications.

Applications

An Bord Pleanála decided its first strategic housing development application on the 9 January 2018. A total of 44 applications were received during 2018 of which 39 were valid and a further 5 were invalid. In all, 39 cases were formally determined by the Board in 2018. All 39 formal decisions issued by the Board were issued within the 16-week statutory period. The majority of applications decided were for developments in the Greater Dublin Area, with other applications in Cork and Galway.

Figure 8: Geographic Distribution of valid SHD Applications decided 2018



Of the 39 decisions, the Board granted permission, subject to conditions, in 27 cases and refused permission in relation to the remaining 12 cases. The average number of weeks to decide strategic housing developments in 2018 was 14.

Of the 27 applications approved, permission was granted for a total of 7,102 housing units (3,284 houses and 3,818 apartments) and 4,479 student bed spaces.

Table 6: Strategic Housing Developments - Applications

	Permissions Granted	Housing Units	Student Bed-Spaces
2018	27	7,102	4,479

Pre-Application Consultations

The SHD legislation also requires that a prospective applicant completes a pre-application consultation process with An Bord Pleanála before lodging an application for a strategic housing development.

This pre-application consultation is a 9-week process and culminates in the issuing of an 'Opinion'.

In 2018, An Bord Pleanála received 97 valid requests to enter into pre-application consultations and issued 74 Opinions. All of those 74 Opinions (as with all Opinions issued since the implementation of the legislation) were issued within the 9-week period.

Pre-application consultation requests were also received in relation to two new housing typologies, build to rent apartments and shared accommodation. An Bord Pleanála received 10 pre-application consultation requests that related in part, or in whole to build to rent, two for shared accommodation and one for build to rent/shared accommodation in 2018

Other Significant Case Types

Vacant Site Levy

The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 provides for appeals to An Bord Pleanála against entry on the vacant sites register, or against the vacant site levy, or both.

An in-house working group was set up to initiate the necessary operating procedures for Vacant Site Levy cases.

The first appeal against entry on a vacant sites register was received in April 2017. In 2018, An Bord Pleanála received 99 appeals, of which 88 were valid.

During the year, 87 cases were concluded with the Board making a formal decision on 74 cases with 13 otherwise disposed of.

Table 7: Vacant Site Levy Appeals Concluded	
Confirm entry on register	37
Cancel entry from register	37
Otherwise disposed of	13
Total	87

Projects of Common Interest

An Bord Pleanála is the Competent Authority for Projects of Common Interest (PCI) under European Regulation 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure. This relates to European Union procedures to streamline the consenting process for trans-European energy projects which are contained in a Union list of projects adopted by the European Commission.

In 2018, two project promoters notified An Bord Pleanála, as Competent Authority, that they wished projects to enter the permit granting process under Article 10 of the Regulation.

In July, the project known as Greenlink (Ireland - United Kingdom interconnection between Wexford and Pembroke, Wales, number 1.9.1 on the Union List) applied to enter the process.

In October 2018, An Bord Pleanála, including on behalf of other authorities concerned, rejected the notification on the basis that the project was considered not mature enough to enter the permit granting process.

In December 2018, the project known as the Celtic Interconnector (France – Ireland interconnection between La Martyre and Great Island or Knockraha, number 1.6 on the Union List) applied to enter the process. The decision was outstanding at the end of 2018.

New Case Types

Environmental Impact Assessment

The EU (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 commenced on 1 September 2018 giving effect to the amended Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2014. Changes introduced by the Regulations include more formalised screening procedures to determine whether EIA is required in respect of development consent proposals.

By the end of 2018, An Bord Pleanála implemented new procedures to carry out a preliminary examination of the nature, scale and location of the proposed development for all appeals, referrals and applications involving sub-threshold development where an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is not submitted.

Where likely significant effects on the environment cannot be excluded, a screening determination is required using expanded selection criteria. The applicant is notified of the outcome within 8 weeks of the receipt of specified information which must be provided by the developer to inform that determination.

The Regulations also introduced a requirement for Board decisions relating to EIA development to include the reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment.

These new procedures are now applied to all relevant cases.

Oral Hearings

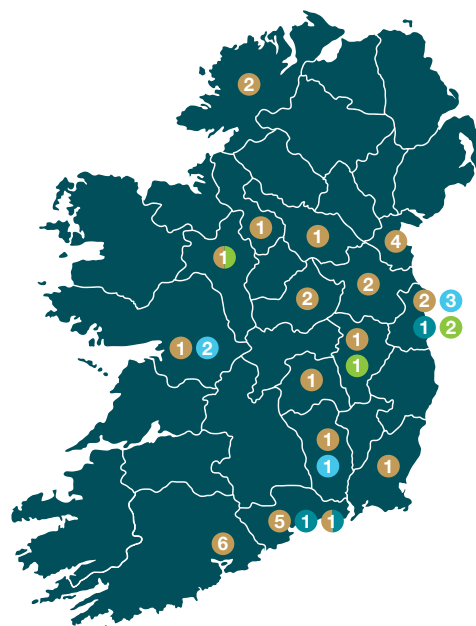
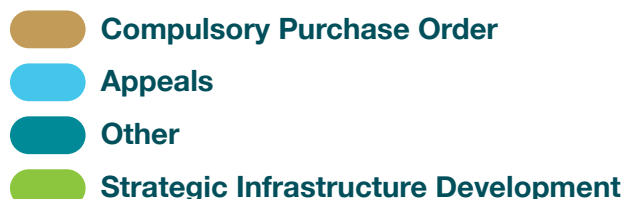
Appeals and referrals are generally dealt with on the basis of written submissions from the parties, together with a site inspection by an Inspector appointed by An Bord Pleanála. Oral hearings are typically held in relation to CPO cases, Strategic Infrastructure Applications and other cases which are complex and / or large in scale. An Bord Pleanála often arrange oral hearings to be held in the local area to the proposed development to enable local interested parties, planning authorities and stakeholders to attend.

During 2018, there were 43 oral hearings held. Of these 30 related to compulsory purchase orders, and 4 related to strategic infrastructure development applications and other types of local authority projects.

In relation to planning appeal cases, there were a total of 6 oral hearings held in 2018. Two further oral hearings were held relating to SDZs.

In Autumn 2018, An Bord Pleanála published a revised plain language guide to oral hearings.

Map 1: Location of Oral Hearings 2018



Reports and Recommendations

Decisions on all valid appeals and applications are made by the Board of An Bord Pleanála on foot of reports, including recommendations, prepared by inspectors. External inspectors are appointed in a small number of specialist work areas such as Fire Safety and Disability Access cases, or as specialists – for example: ecologists, hydrologists – to assist in-house reporting inspectors with aspects of particular planning cases.

A total number of 2,098 inspector's reports were prepared for the Board in 2018, the majority (2,078) by in-house inspectors. External reporting inspectors prepared 16 reports for the Board.

An updated panel for external consultants for Building Control Acts and Water Pollution Acts cases was finalised in 2018.

During 2018, an incentivised report scheme for inspectors (in-house and external) was run over 3 weekends to assist in clearing the backlog of cases that had arisen during the year. 68 'householder' (smaller type) cases were discharged with additional work days released during the normal working week to allow for assessment and discharge of larger cases.

Board Meetings

The Inspector's Report and Recommendation is provided to the Board with the full case file for decision. The cases are decided by Board members in a quorum at Board meetings and decisions are recorded in the minutes of that Board meeting. In 2018, the Board held 940 meetings to decide cases.

02. Corporate Matters

- Strategic Plan 2018-2023
- Legal Proceedings
- Human Resources
- Implementation of ICT Strategy
- Communications
- Energy Efficiency



Strategic Plan 2018-2023

In August 2018, An Bord Pleanála published its Strategic Plan 2018-23. The Strategic Plan was developed in consultation with the Board and staff of An Bord Pleanála and also takes into account submissions from the public and stakeholders.

The Strategic Plan 2018-2023 is built around four goals which provide a framework for our work in the next five years, reinforcing our trusted reputation for impartiality, driving the highest standards in timely decision making and service to the public. It also sets out how we will support and develop an agile and high performing workforce in carrying out the important work of An Bord Pleanála.

Goal 1

Protecting and enhancing our reputation for independence, impartiality, trust, integrity and transparency.



Goal 2

Making robust, timely, transparent, high quality decisions which support proper planning and sustainable development.



Goal 3

Improving our service to meet changing customer expectation.



Goal 4

Fostering a motivated, resilient and responsive organisation.

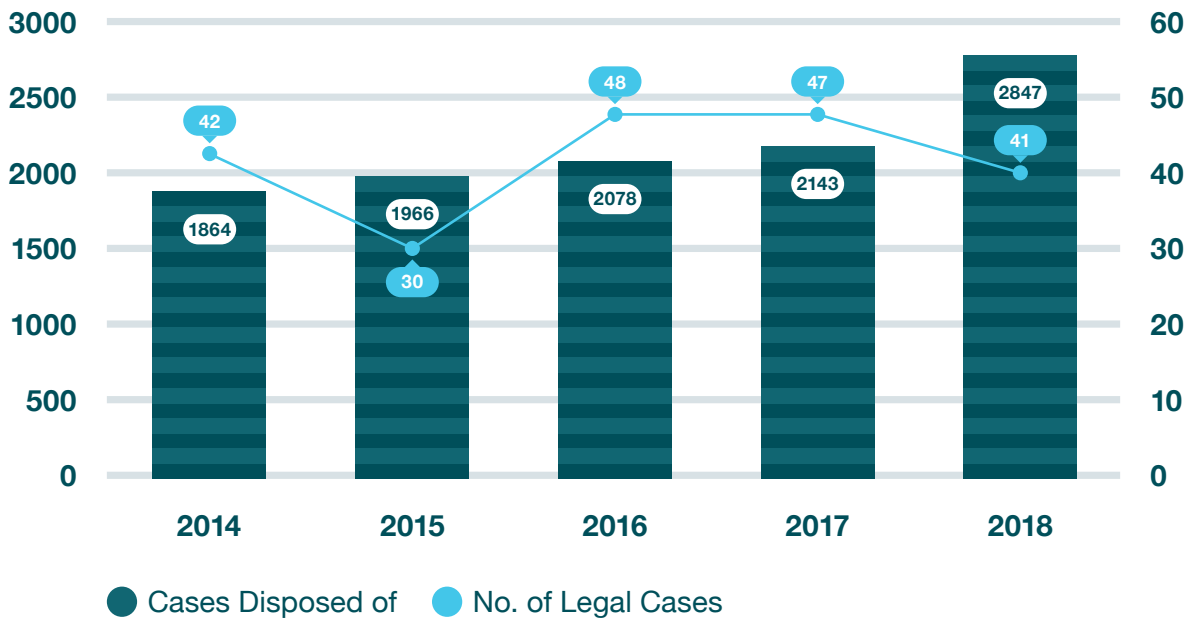


The Strategic Plan will be implemented through the Annual Delivery Plan which includes specific, measurable, time-bound actions and clear outcomes. Implementation of the Plan is reviewed quarterly by the Board.

Legal Proceedings

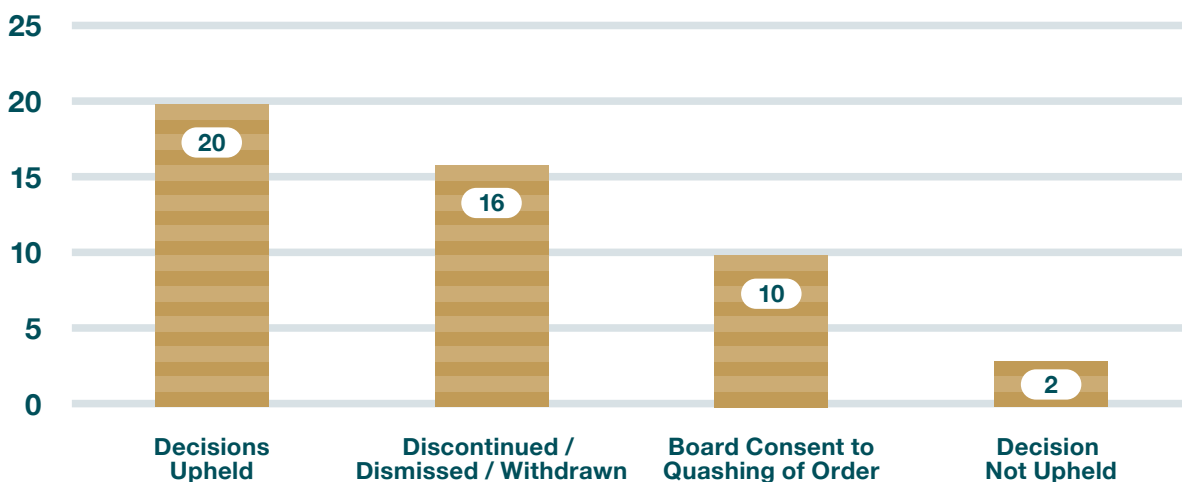
In 2018, judicial review proceedings in relation to Board decisions and procedures were instituted in 41 cases (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Legal Cases and Cases Disposed of Comparison 2014 - 2018



There were 22 substantive judgements in cases taken with 20 decisions of the Board upheld. Proceedings against An Bord Pleanála were discontinued, dismissed or withdrawn in 16 cases.

Figure 10: Outcome of Legal Proceedings 2018



During the year, the Board consented to the quashing of 10 of its orders where a procedural defect was identified.

Human Resources

Staffing and Recruitment

2018 was another busy year for An Bord Pleanála in relation to recruitment and induction of new and promoted staff. There were a number of internal and external competitions to fill vacancies at Planning Inspector, Senior Executive Officer and Administrative Assistant grades to staff the new Strategic Housing Unit. In total, 20 staff and 3 new Board members including the Chairperson joined An Bord Pleanála in 2018.

The highest number of staff employed during 2018 was 156.3. The average number of staff employed over 2018 was 151.3 whole-time equivalent (138.5 in 2017). A full list of staff employed in December 2018 can be found in Appendix 3.

Temporary positions are also made available in An Bord Pleanála to provide work experience to Transition Year students as well as summer staff including students from local schools and internships for planning students from the three planning schools, Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), UCD and UCC.

Learning and Development

Staff members undertook studies in a range of areas, including Environmental and Planning Law, ICT, Public Administration and Irish Language.

An Bord Pleanála supports staff and Board members by building capacity and skills through a range of learning and development opportunities to enable performance and meet emerging challenges for the purposes of achieving our strategic goals. The total amount of training days in 2018 was 616.75 which equated to 3.64 days per staff / Board member.



Implementation of ICT Strategy

Plean-IT project

The Plean-IT project commenced in 2014 to implement systems to manage workflows and records to enable a digital service to the public. It is made up of 3 applications:

- Case Management System
- Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Website / Web Portal

The case management system and GIS were deployed in October 2017.

Introduction of the new systems, while still maintaining day-to-day business practices, caused significant disruption to processes to manage cases within statutory objective periods. During 2018, it was agreed to delay planned development work on Phases 3 and 4 (website and portal) and focus on stabilisation of systems and processes to include:

- Delivery of a set of updates and enhancements to the new system to improve user experience, performance and business process efficiencies.
- Development of robust application and helpdesk support processes to leverage the capability of Plean-IT.
- Provision of comprehensive training, knowledge transfer, and information to all An Bord Pleanála staff to enable their use of the Plean-IT system to its full capacity.

A dedicated SuperUser programme was set up in 2018 where a number of staff in each section have been briefed and trained to support colleagues with Plean-IT and provide feedback and contribute to further development of the system. The Plean-IT team provided support and training during the roll out and stabilisation phases with the ICT Operations team taking on Helpdesk activities during the year.

The services of an experienced CRM Dynamics Applications Support Specialist was retained in 2018 to assist during the stabilisation phase and a CRM developer has since been contracted to An Bord Pleanála by public tender. Since the beginning of the project, external service providers were required to provide specialist expertise to support An Bord Pleanála. PwC supplied these services until expiry of their contract in August 2018.

An Bord Pleanála issued a tender via the Office of Government Procurement for selected Programme Management Services to support delivery of Phase 3 and 4. Unfortunately, the tender was not successful and had to be run a second time and has been partially completed with the appointment of a Business Analyst in March 2019 and a Programme Manager in May 2019.

A revised timetable for completion of remaining tasks will be drawn up Quarter 3 2019.

ICT Infrastructure and Operations

In 2018, a competitive dialogue tender process was entered into to procure the infrastructure and managed services required for hosting the Plean-IT case management and geographical information system (GIS). eBecs was the successful tenderer who commenced work on implementation of infrastructure and managed services from June 2018.

An external GIS expert was also employed to assist the internal team to deploy the infrastructure and solution.

Management information software, Power BI, has also been deployed as part of Plean-IT to facilitate generation of statistics. Significant work was required in 2018 to develop reports on Power BI and to prepare for migration of data to the new case management system. As part of the technology workstream of the Plean-IT project, new devices and screens were procured for inspectors following a public tender concluded in 2018.

The ICT Operations team are taking on support of the new case management system. Additional external resources have been employed to assist the internal team gain the required knowledge and understanding of new technologies.

Communications

A dedicated Communications Unit was established and a specialist post filled in 2018 to lead implementation of the Communications Strategy prepared in 2017.

Significant effort was put into reviewing content on the existing website, simplifying navigation and identifying areas where more information could be made available to improve services to the public, for example, case announcements and statistics.

Plain English Project

As an organisation who engages regularly with the public, An Bord Pleanála recognises the importance of presenting information concisely.

In 2018, members of staff attended courses presented by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA), to build our knowledge and experience in Plain English. An Bord Pleanála is currently revising our general information and guidance to comply with Plain English standards, where possible.

In 2018, the first guides to use the Plain English principles were published. These were:

- Fees and Charges Guide,
- Oral Hearings Guide, and
- Viewing a Decided Case File: Public Access.

Other guides are currently in the process of being revised or prepared and will be published in the future.

Consultation with other Bodies

An Bord Pleanála is obliged to keep itself informed of the policies of certain bodies whose functions have a bearing on proper planning and sustainable development. These include Ministers of the Government and planning authorities.

The ongoing practice of maintaining contact with public authorities and other representative organisations whose functions impact on the planning process was continued during 2018. Meetings were held with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Irish Water, Construction Industry Federation (CIF), Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA), Royal Town Planning Institute Ireland (RTPI Ireland) and County and City Management Association (CCMA).

Work commenced in 2018 on the preparation of a stakeholder engagement plan, to address recommendations included in the 2016 Organisational Review of An Bord Pleanála. This is planned to be finalised in 2019.

Irish Language

An Bord Pleanála welcomes the use of the Irish language and the organisation is fully committed to fulfilling its obligations and commitments in relation to official language equality under the Official Languages Act 2003, the Planning and Development Acts and its Customer Action Plan and Language Scheme.

Bliain na Gaeilge was held in An Bord Pleanála during 2018 and a series of events were held to promote the use of the Irish language on an everyday basis. These events included a talk from Rónán Ó Domhnaill, An Coimisinéir Teanga, and a bilingual tour of the National Library of Ireland. The annual Seachtain na Gaeilge programme was also held with events such as Lá Cainte.

Freedom of Information (FOI) and Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

The Planning and Development Acts, the Freedom of Information Act and Access to Information on the Environment Regulations provide for access to certain information on An Bord Pleanála's operations.

Details of activity in 2018 are provided below:

Table 8: FOI / AIE Requests 2018	FOI	AIE
On hands Start	2	0
Requests Received	63	22
Granted/Partially Granted	33	14
Withdrawn	0	0
Transferred	0	0
Refused	30	5
On hands End	2	3

The number of public access requests for casework files under the Planning and Development Acts was 1,824 in 2018.

Oireachtas Members Queries

An Bord Pleanála has arrangements in place to provide information to members of the Oireachtas on request. In 2018, we received eleven queries from members of the Oireachtas and issued a substantive reply to each within the 15 working days' response time. Responses to queries are published on a quarterly basis on our website.

Customer Service

An Bord Pleanála's Customer Charter and Customer Action Plan, published on its website, sets out the organisation's commitments and objectives in relation to maintaining high standards of customer service. The Customer Action Plan also contains information on how to make a complaint about the quality of customer service.

In 2018, we received 184 communications regarding decided cases and 7 queries were carried over from 2017. During the year, replies were issued to 159 queries of which 95 had a detailed response to their query within 4 weeks. There were 18 items carried over to 2019.

Sometimes a query will contain more than one topic, for example, the query may raise both interpretation and clarification matters. The most common topic raised is enforcement (73 queries). Enforcement is where a person considers that the decision of the Board is not being correctly implemented. This is a matter for the planning authorities, as An Bord Pleanála has no role in enforcement matters.

Figure 11: Post-Decision Correspondence Replies



Energy Efficiency

As part of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Public Sector Efficiency programme, An Bord Pleanála is committed to increasing energy efficiency by a factor of 33% by the year 2020.

In 2018, our energy consumption was 45.1% less than the baseline. The baseline figures for reaching this goal are calculated using the average energy consumption between the years 2006 to 2008.

Table 9: Energy Data 2018

	2018	Baseline 2006-2008	% change
Energy Usage	523,500 kWh	742,877 kWh	(29.5%)
CO2 Emissions	201,532 kg	457,941 kg	(55.9%)

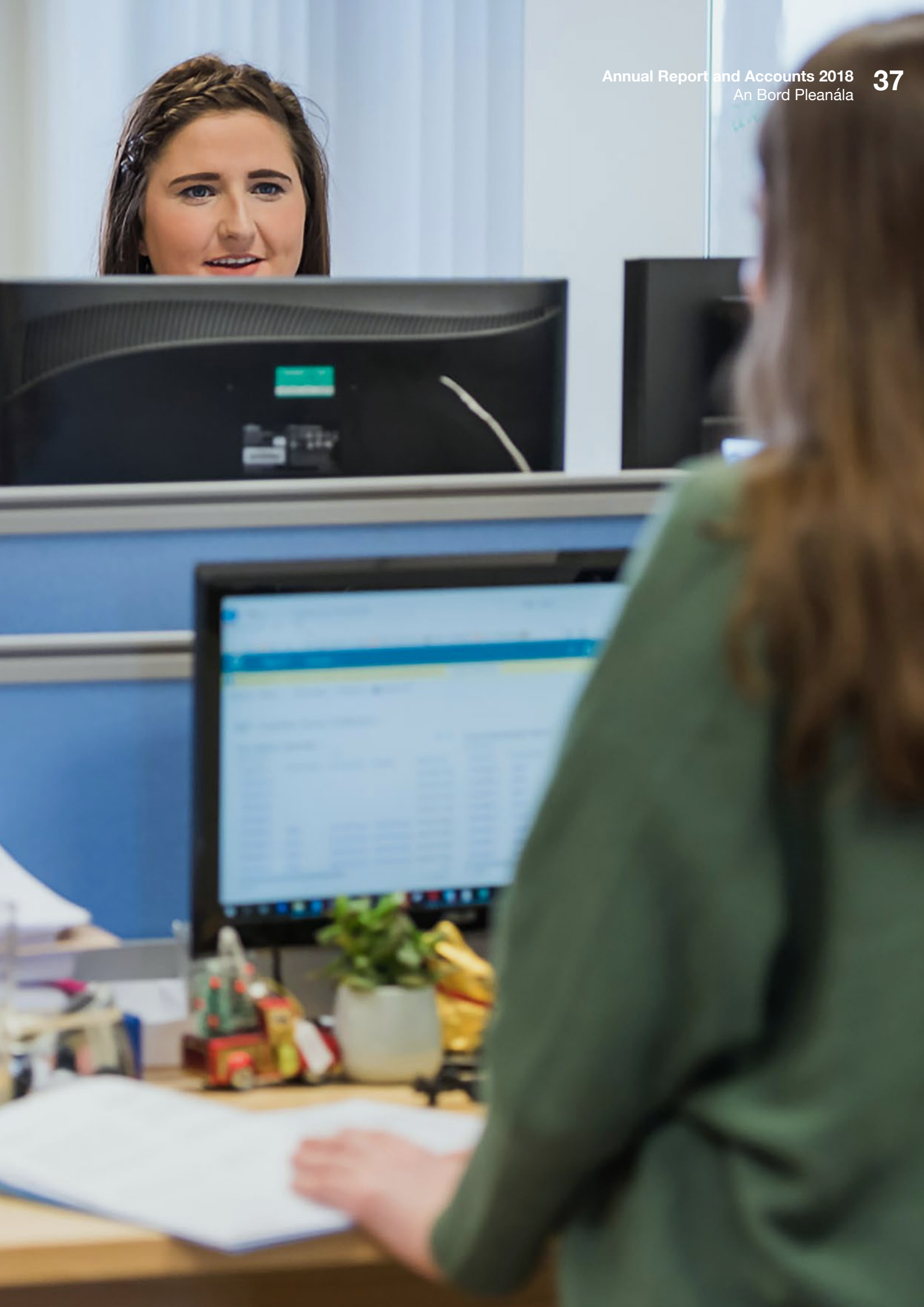
We increased our energy usage by 1.6% in 2018 compared to 2017 and CO2 emissions remain in excess of the required targets. The building lies in the D1 category of the building energy rating (BER) scheme.

Actions undertaken to improve energy efficiency in 2018 include:

- Improving lighting efficiency office wide by switching to LED energy efficient lighting.
- Upgrading building wide insulation.

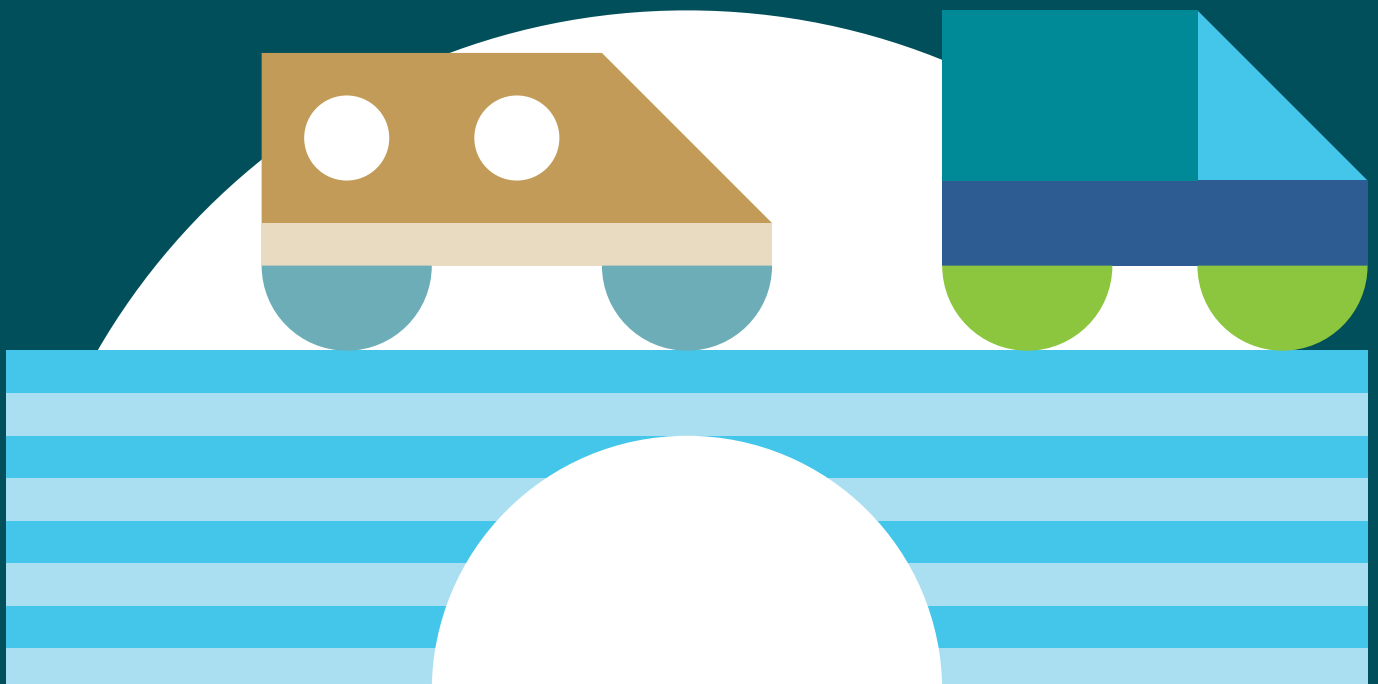
Actions planned for 2019 include:

- Procuring greener, more efficient air conditioning units.
- Further improving building wide insulation.
- Upgrading the basement lighting by switching to LED energy efficient lighting.



03. Governance Matters

- **Members of the Board**
- **Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies**
- **Risk Management**
- **Procurement**
- **Prompt Payments**
- **Data Protection and GDPR**
- **Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Dignity**
- **Ethics in Public Office**



Members of the Board



Dr Mary Kelly²

Chairperson:
29 August 2011
Term Expired:
28 August 2018



Dave Walsh²

Chairperson:
30 October 2018



Conall Boland²

Ordinary Member: 1 January 2007
**Ordinary Member &
Deputy Chairperson:** 30 May 2012
Reappointed: 1 January 2014
Term Expired: 31 December 2018



Paul Hyde¹

Ordinary Member:
1 May 2014



Philip Jones¹

Ordinary Member:
1 May 2014



Eugene Nixon

Ordinary Member: 12 June 2017
Resigned: 21 December 2018



Terry Prendergast¹

Ordinary Member:
2 August 2017



Terry Ó Niadh¹

Ordinary Member:
4 September 2017



John Connolly²

Ordinary Member:
18 September 2017



Dr Maria Fitzgerald²

Ordinary Member:
10 July 2017



Michelle Fagan

Ordinary Member:
12 February 2018



Stephen Bohan²

Ordinary Member:
12 June 2018

¹ Strategic Housing Division

² Strategic Infrastructure Division

Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies

Corporate Governance in An Bord Pleanála follows the relevant requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016. An Bord Pleanála is committed to reviewing its governance policies and procedures on an on-going basis and obtaining up to date refresher training and guidance to assure continued compliance with best practice in this area.

An Bord Pleanála has conducted a review of governance arrangements and procedures to ensure appropriate alignment with all relevant provisions of the 2016 Code. An Bord Pleanála is satisfied that it is in full compliance with all code requirements.

Risk Management

Risk Management and related governance structures and procedures are key priorities. The Board has responsibility for overseeing risk management within the organisation determining the organisation's risk appetite and the Corporate Risk Register (and amendments to) during the year.

The Risk Committee (Management Committee) completed start and mid-year risk reviews with the Corporate Risk Register proposed to the Board in February 2018 for approval and for review mid-year in July 2018.

Procurement

As a public body, An Bord Pleanála utilises central contracts put in place by the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) when procuring a range of commonly acquired goods and services.

Where no central contract is available, An Bord Pleanála operates in accordance with European Union (EU) Procurement Directives.

In 2018, 4 contracts for services (over €25,000) were procured under frameworks operated by the Office of Government Procurement and one via the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (for GIS services).

A multi-annual contract for Facilities Management Services as (the value of which exceeded the EU threshold) was advertised in the OJEU.

Table 10: List of Procurements Completed in 2018

€25,000 to EU Threshold

ICT Technical Support Services: CRM Developer (OGP)

ICT Technical Support Services: Project Manager (OGP)

Audit Services (OGP)

Multifunctional Device Services (OGP)

Geographic Information System Solution (DHPLG)

EU Threshold / OJEU

Facilities Management Services (An Bord Pleanála)

Prompt Payments

An Bord Pleanála comes within the scope of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997, as amended by the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002. The payment practices are reported on below for the year ended 31st December 2018 in accordance with section 12 of the Act.

1. It is An Bord Pleanála's policy to comply with the relevant provisions of the Act and, in particular, to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly. Specific procedures are in place that enable it to track all invoices and ensure that payments are made before the due date. Invoices are registered daily and payments are made as required to ensure timely payments. In 2018, An Bord Pleanála did not set or agree payment periods outside the terms of the Act.
2. The system of internal control incorporates such controls and procedures as are considered necessary to ensure compliance with the Act. This system includes accounting and computer controls designed to ensure the identification of invoices and contracts for payment within the payment periods required by the Act. Reports are produced that identify unpaid outstanding invoices and these reports are reviewed regularly at a senior management level.
3. The procedures referred to at 1 and 2 above are designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the Act. An Bord Pleanála is satisfied that its procedures have operated adequately in the main and that no remedial action is required.
4. The average delay in making payments, after the statutory period of 30 days, was 35 days.

There were two late payments in 2018. The total value of all payments was €7.75 million.

Since 1st January 2019, there have been no material developments insofar as An Bord Pleanála's compliance with the Act is concerned.

Data Protection and GDPR

Data Protection Legislation derives from Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (27 April 2016) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data ("GDPR") and includes any applicable national legislation implementing the GDPR or otherwise related to the processing of personal data, as may be amended or replaced from time to time. The Regulation came into effect on 25th May 2018. The Board adopted a GDPR Policy, Privacy Statement and CCTV Policy in May 2018. Briefings on the new Policy and GDPR were also made available to all staff.

During 2018, An Bord Pleanála received and responded to 10 personal data requests.

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 imposes a statutory obligation on public bodies in performing their functions to have regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity and treatment for staff and persons to whom it provides services; and
- Protect the human rights of staff and service users

An Bord Pleanála has appointed an Access Officer to facilitate access to our services for all members of the public in as far as it is reasonable and practicable.

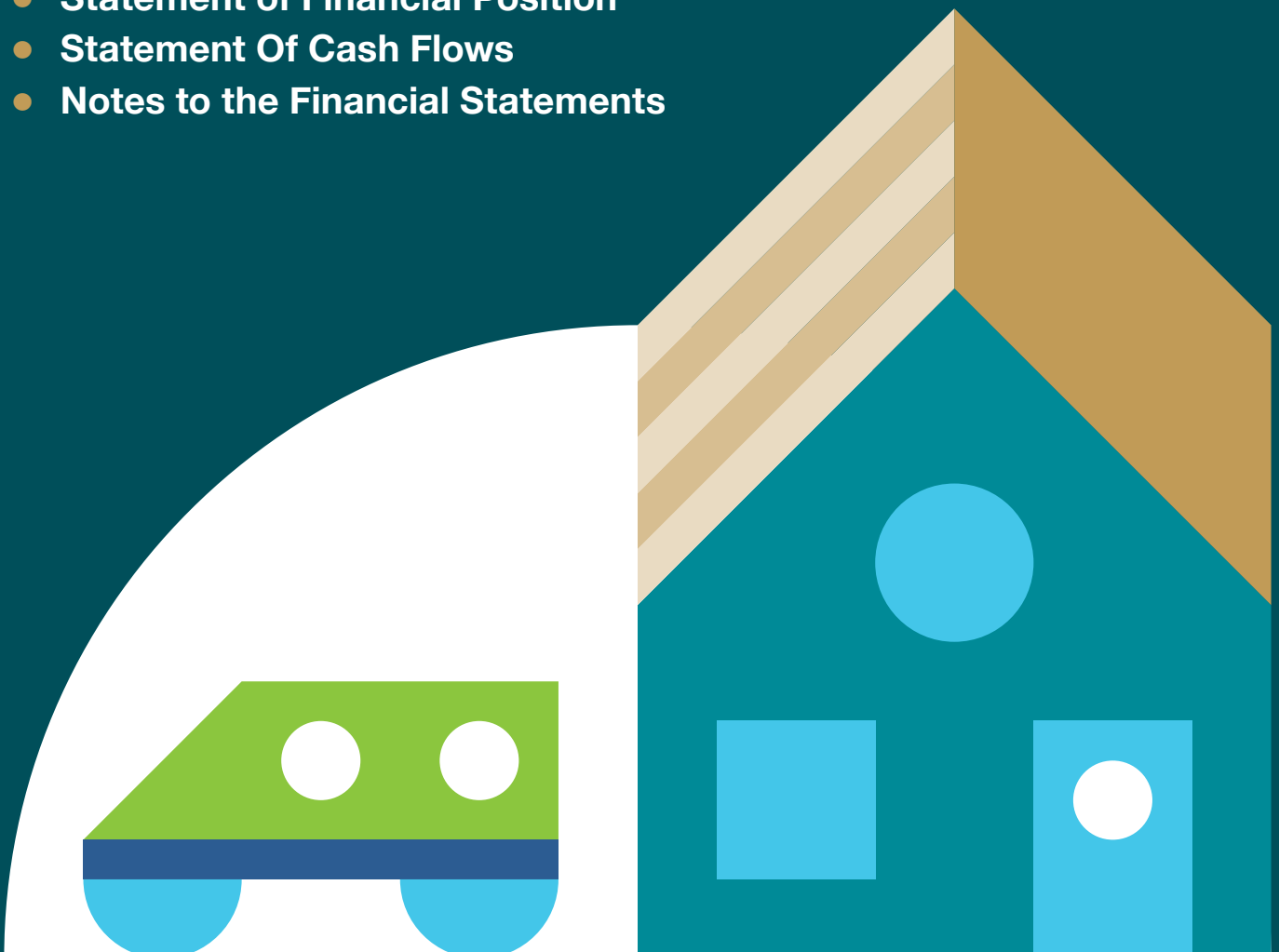
Ethics in Public Office

An Bord Pleanála comes within the scope of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 and has adopted procedures to comply with the Act. Where required, Board members and staff have completed statements of interest in compliance with the provisions of the Act.



04. Governance Report & Financial Statements

- Governance Statement and Board Members' Report
- Statement of Compliance
- Statement on Internal Control
- Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves
- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement Of Cash Flows
- Notes to the Financial Statements



Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

Governance

An Bord Pleanála was established under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1976. An Bord Pleanála is responsible for the determination of appeals and certain other matters under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018 and determination of direct applications for Strategic Housing Development and for Strategic Infrastructure Development including major road and railway cases. It is also responsible for dealing with proposals for the compulsory acquisition of land by local authorities and others under various enactments. The Board also has functions to determine appeals under Water Pollution and Building Control Acts.

The Board is accountable to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and for ensuring good corporate governance. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of An Bord Pleanála are the responsibility of the Chairperson, Chief Officer and the senior management team.

The Chairperson, Chief Officer and senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board, and must ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the organisation, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The Chairperson acts as a direct liaison between the Board and management of An Bord Pleanála.

Board Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the statutory provisions in the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2018 and associated legislation.

The Chairperson and Ordinary Board members are appointed in a whole time capacity and are specifically excluded from holding any other office or employment in respect of which emoluments are payable. Remuneration levels for the Chairperson and other Board members are set by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

Board members have responsibility for delivery of high quality decisions on planning appeals and applications in a timely manner and for oversight of the overall corporate governance of the organisation. In addition to regular meetings to adjudicate on planning casework, the Board also meets generally on a monthly basis or as required in relation to oversight and governance of An Bord Pleanála. These General Board Meetings have standing items which include:

- Financial reports/management accounts
- Performance Reports
- Risk Management reports and analysis
- Approval and review of corporate policies
- Approval and monitoring of annual budget
- Approval and monitoring of annual business plan

- Reports from the Audit and Risk Committee and Internal Audit
- Management reports on Legal Affairs
- Any other matters reserved to the Board for decision

Section 150 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires An Bord Pleanála to adopt a Code of Conduct for dealing with conflicts of interest and promoting public confidence in the integrity of the conduct of its business. The Code of Conduct adopted by the Board is available on its website. The provisions of the Code of Conduct also align with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

The policy of An Bord Pleanála is to provide best value for money when purchasing goods and services for the organisation. An Bord Pleanála is encouraged to utilise central contracts put in place by the Office of Government Procurement when procuring a range of commonly acquired goods and services. Where no central contract is available, An Bord Pleanála operates in accordance with EU Procurement Guidelines and its own internal procurement policy and protocols. An Bord Pleanála also complies with the appropriate requirements of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Public Spending Code in relation to its expenditure.

Section 117(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires the Board of An Bord Pleanála to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing its financial statements, An Bord Pleanála is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in financial statements

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position which enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with section 117(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The maintenance and integrity of the information on the An Bord Pleanála website in relation to any corporate or financial matters is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual business plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of An Bord Pleanála by reference to the annual business plan and budget for 2018 was carried out by the Board at the General Board Meeting of the 24 January 2019.

The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of An Bord Pleanála give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of An Bord Pleanála at 31 December 2018.

Board Structure

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended provides that the Board shall consist of a Chairperson and nine ordinary members, one of whom is appointed as Deputy Chairperson. The Chairperson's term of office is seven years and the Chairperson can be re-appointed for a second or subsequent term of office provided he or she is Chairperson at the time of the re-appointment. The ordinary Board members (including the Deputy Chairperson) term of office is five years and these members may be re-appointed for a second or subsequent term provided that the person concerned is an outgoing member at the time of the re-appointment. Membership of the Board is whole-time. The table below details the appointment period for current members:

Board Member	Role	Date Appointed
Dr Mary Kelly	Chairperson <i>Term Expired</i>	29 August 2011 28 August 2018
Dave Walsh	Chairperson	30 October 2018
Conall Boland	Ordinary Member <i>Reappointed for 2 further years</i> Appointed Deputy Chairperson <i>Reappointed for a 5 year term*</i> <i>Term Expired</i>	1 January 2007 1 January 2012 30 May 2012 1 January 2014 31 December 2018
Paul Hyde	Ordinary Member	1 May 2014
Philip Jones	Ordinary Member	1 May 2014
Eugene Nixon	Ordinary Member <i>Resigned</i>	12 June 2017 21 December 2018
Terry Prendergast	Ordinary Member	2 August 2017
Terry Ó Niadh	Ordinary Member	4 September 2017
John Connolly	Ordinary Member	18 September 2017
Dr Maria Fitzgerald	Ordinary Member	10 July 2017
Michelle Fagan	Ordinary Member	12 February 2018
Stephen Bohan	Ordinary Member	12 June 2018

* Conall Boland was reappointed for a five year as Deputy Chair on 1 January 2014

The Board completed a self-assessment evaluation of its own performance in March 2019.

The Board has established an Audit and Risk Committee which comprises two Board members and two external persons, one of whom is the Chairperson. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular, the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The minutes of ARC's meetings are circulated to the Board after each meeting and an annual report is delivered to the Board by the Chairperson of the ARC on activities throughout the year.

The members of the Audit and Risk Committee in 2018 were: Martin Higgins (External Chairperson), Jim Hurley (external member) and Board members, Philip Jones and Terry Ó Niadh and also Michelle Fagan who replaced Philip Jones on the Committee during 2018. There were three meetings in 2018. Mr. Hurley's term as a member of the ARC expired in 2018 and he has been replaced by another external member Ms. Patricia Byron.

Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the General Board and Audit and Risk Committee meetings for 2018 is set out below:

	General Board Meetings		Audit and Risk Committee	
	A	B	A	B
Dr Mary Kelly ¹	7	7		
Dave Walsh ²	2	2		
Conall Boland ¹	11	11		
Paul Hyde	11	9		
Philip Jones ^{3,4}	11	9	1	1
Eugene Nixon ¹	11	11		
Dr Maria Fitzgerald	11	11		
Terry Prendergast	11	10		
Terry Ó Niadh ³	11	10	3	2
John Connolly	11	10		
Michelle Fagan ^{2,3,4}	10	9	2	2
Stephen Bohan ²	6	6		

A Number of meetings held during the tenure of each Board member in 2018.

B Number of meetings attended.

¹ Term of office expired in 2018.

² Appointed in 2018.

³ Board member who sat on the Audit and Risk Committee during 2018.

⁴ Philip Jones's term on the Audit Committee ended during 2018 and he was replaced by Michele Fagan.

Key Personnel Changes

The terms of office of the then outgoing Chairperson (Dr. Mary Kelly) and the then outgoing Deputy Chairperson (Mr. Conall Boland) of the Board expired in 2018 and one ordinary Board member resigned in 2018. In accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the Government appointed a new Chairperson (Mr. David Walsh) and the Minister appointed two new ordinary Board members in 2018 (Ms. Michelle Fagan and Mr. Stephen Bohan).

The Minister subsequently appointed one of the existing ordinary Board members (Mr. Paul Hyde) to be the new Deputy Chairperson in 2019.

Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring An Bord Pleanála has complied with the requirement of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

Employee benefits breakdown (includes Board Members)

Board members and Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

Range of total employee benefits			No. of Employees	
From		To	2018	2017
€60,000	-	€69,999	14	13
€70,000	-	€79,999	25	27
€80,000	-	€89,999	24	17
€90,000	-	€99,999	1	6
€100,000	-	€109,999	1	4
€110,000	-	€119,999	9	4
€120,000	-	€129,999	0	1
€130,000	-	€139,999	1	0
€140,000	-	€149,999	0	0
€150,000	-	€159,999	0	0
€160,000	-	€169,999	0	0
€170,000	-	€179,999	0	1
€180,000	-	€189,999	1	0
			76	73

Note: For the purpose of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, overtime allowances and other payments made on behalf of the employee, but exclude employer's PRSI.

Consultancy Costs

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

	2018	2017
	€	€
Legal advice	29,199	0
Actuarial advice	5,070	6,615
ICT Consultancy	31,634	53,358
ICT Consultancy Plean IT Project	456,581	1,319,932
Human Resources	9,530	9,767
Business Improvement	1,007	37,693
Other	70,026	82,349
Total consultancy costs	603,047	1,509,714
Consultancy costs capitalised	134,153	711,878
Consultancy costs charged to the Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	468,894	797,836
Total	603,047	1,509,714

Legal Costs and Settlements

The table below provides a breakdown of amounts recognised as expenditure in the reporting period in relation to legal costs, settlements and conciliation and arbitration proceedings relating to contracts with third parties. This does not include expenditure incurred in relation to general legal advice received by an Bord Pleanála which is disclosed in Consultancy costs above. The expenditure on legal costs relates to legal services engaged or payments made to litigants in relation to applications for judicial review of An Bord Pleanála planning decisions as provided for in section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

	2018	2017
	€	€
Legal fees – legal proceedings	2,049,126	2,283,134
Conciliation and arbitration payments	0	0
Settlements	1,208,067	869,974
Total	3,257,193	3,153,108

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Domestic		
Board*	2,163	551
Employees	174,392	157,429
Planning Consultants	2,899	3,724
International		
Board	32	308
Employees	985	3,839
Total	180,471	165,851

* includes travel and subsistence of €1,076 paid directly to Board members in 2018 (2017: €551). The balance of €1,087 (2017: €0) is made up of, €270 relating to expenditure paid by An Bord Pleanála on behalf of Board members and €817 relating to subsistence for the meeting of the Heads of the Planning Appeal authorities in Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England/Wales.

Hospitality Expenditure

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Staff hospitality	3,727	1,351
Client hospitality	0	0
Total	3,727	1,351

Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the 2016 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

An Bord Pleanála commenced and completed a full gap analysis on all Code requirements in 2017/2018 and has since progressed closing gaps identified in that analysis. An Bord Pleanála is satisfied that it is now in full compliance with all applicable requirements of the Code.

On behalf of the Board of An Bord Pleanála:



Mr Dave Walsh,
Chairperson
Date: 13th June 2019



Mr Paul Hyde,
Deputy Chairperson
Date: 13th June 2019



Statement on Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of An Bord Pleanála I acknowledge the Board's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has been in place in An Bord Pleanála for the year ended 31 December 2018 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

An Bord Pleanála has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising two Board members and two external members, with financial and audit expertise, one of whom is the Chairperson. The ARC met three times in 2018.

An Bord Pleanála has also established an internal audit function by engaging external consultants who conduct a programme of work agreed with the ARC.

An Bord Pleanála has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management process in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within An Bord Pleanála's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

Risk and Control Framework

An Bord Pleanála has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing An Bord Pleanála and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Board on an annual and mid-year basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for the operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented,
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,

- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management,
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems,
- there are systems in place to safeguard assets.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies,
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performances and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts.

Procurement

I confirm that An Bord Pleanála has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2018, An Bord Pleanála complied with those procedures.

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that An Bord Pleanála has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. An Bord Pleanála's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior management within An Bord Pleanála responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2018 on 28th March 2019.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2018 that require disclosure in the financial statements.



Mr Dave Walsh,
Chairperson

Date: 13th June 2019

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the year ended 31 December 2018

		2018	2017
	Note	€	€
Income			
Oireachtas Grants	2	17,487,581	17,099,682
Fees	3	1,308,422	1,385,088
Strategic Housing Fees	3	931,761	388,264
Strategic Infrastructure Fees & Cost Recoupment	4	1,814,568	1,251,121
Net Deferred Pension Funding	7(c)	2,866,334	3,061,568
Miscellaneous Income	5	3,995	1,625
Deposit Interest	5	13	8
Profit/(loss) on disposal of Fixed Assets		30	45
Total Income		24,412,704	23,187,401
Expenditure			
Salaries, Allowances and Superannuation	6	16,046,151	14,445,557
Establishment Expenses	8	2,081,903	2,437,489
Operating Expenses	9	5,922,918	5,234,976
Total Expenditure		24,050,972	22,118,022
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year before Appropriations		361,732	1,069,379
Transfer from/(to) the Capital Account	11	190,080	(498,959)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year after Appropriations		551,812	570,420
Balance Brought Forward at 1 January		(1,470,630)	(2,041,050)
Balance Carried Forward at 31 December		(918,818)	(1,470,630)

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.
On behalf of the Board of An Bord Pleanála:



Mr Dave Walsh,
Chairperson
Date: 13th June 2019



Ms Loretta Lambkin
Chief Officer
Date: 13th June 2019

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 €	2017 €
Surplus/(deficit) after appropriations		551,812	570,420
Experience gains/(losses) on retirement benefit obligations	7(d)	(4,568,000)	5,173,000
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations		2,950,000	(277,000)
Total actuarial gain/(loss) in the year		(1,618,000)	4,896,000
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding		1,618,000	(4,896,000)
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		551,812	570,420

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.
On behalf of the Board of An Bord Pleanála:



Mr Dave Walsh,
Chairperson
Date: 13th June 2019



Ms Loretta Lambkin
Chief Officer
Date: 13th June 2019



Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 December 2018

		2018	2017
	Note	€	€
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant & equipment	12	205,587	313,717
Intangible Assets - Plean IT Project	12	616,555	698,505
Total Non-Current Assets		822,142	1,012,222
Current Assets			
Receivables	13	663,665	637,452
Cash and cash equivalents		3,471,990	1,635,312
		4,135,655	2,272,764
Current Liabilities (<i>amounts falling due within one year</i>)			
Payables	14	(5,054,473)	(3,743,394)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		(918,818)	(1,470,630)
Retirement Benefits			
Retirement benefit obligations	7(b)	(129,548,000)	(125,064,000)
Deferred retirement benefit funding asset		129,548,000	125,064,000
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)		(96,676)	(458,408)
Representing			
Capital account	11	822,142	1,012,222
Retained revenue reserves		(918,818)	(1,470,630)
		(96,676)	(458,408)

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.
On behalf of the Board of An Bord Pleanála:



Mr Dave Walsh,
Chairperson
Date: 13th June 2019



Ms Loretta Lambkin,
Chief Officer
Date: 13th June 2019

Statement Of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
	€	€
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Excess Income over expenditure	551,812	570,420
Movement on Capital Account	(190,080)	498,959
Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets	398,948	383,159
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(26,213)	522,425
Increase/(decrease) in payables	1,311,079	58,218
Bank interest received	(13)	(8)
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	2,045,533	2,033,173
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Payments to acquire property, plant & equipment	(208,868)	(882,118)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(208,868)	(882,118)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Bank interest received	13	8
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	13	8
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,836,678	1,151,063
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	1,635,312	484,249
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December	3,471,990	1,635,312

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2018

1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by An Bord Pleanála are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

a) General Information

An Bord Pleanála was established in 1977 under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1976, with an office at 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

An Bord Pleanála is responsible for the determination of appeals and certain other matters under the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2018 and determination of applications for strategic infrastructure development including major road and railway cases. It is also responsible for dealing with proposals for the compulsory acquisition of land by local authorities and others under various enactments. The Board also has functions to determine appeals under Water Pollution and Building Control Acts.

b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of An Bord Pleanála for the year ended 31 December 2018 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

c) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under section 117(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to An Bord Pleanála's financial statements.

d) Oireachtas Grant

Oireachtas grants from Vote 25, Subhead D3, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government are accounted for on a cash receipt basis except for grants specifically for ICT Strategy Plean-IT project which are accounted for as expended (Note 2).

e) Interest income

Interest income is recognised on a cash receipt basis.

f) Fees

These represent fees paid to the Board in respect of appeals, applications and other matters referred to the Board for determination under various enactments. The actual fees payable are either set by Ministerial regulation or are as determined by the Board and approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in accordance with the following statutory provisions:

- Section 144 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.
- Section 177M of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.
- Sections 7 and 7A of the Building Control Act, 1990, as amended.
- Sections 6 and 19 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977, as amended and section 103 of the Water Services Act, 2007.
- Sections 4 and 5 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act, 2016, as amended

Fee income is shown net of refunds which are made in respect of invalid appeals, referrals and other cases.

g) Strategic Infrastructural Development

Fees in respect of strategic infrastructure development applications are as determined by the Board and approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in accordance with section 144 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

The Board charges an initial fee ranging from €30,000 to €100,000 in relation to Strategic Infrastructure projects. These fees are accounted for on a cash receipts basis. The Board assesses the cost of assessing individual cases and may seek to recoup additional costs or refund a portion of the fee as appropriate. Recoupment of additional costs and refund of fees are accounted for as they fall due.

h) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land and artwork, at rates estimated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

(i) Leasehold buildings	10% per annum
(ii) Refurbishment to Existing Buildings	10% per annum
(iii) Fixtures and Fittings	20% per annum
(iv) Computers and Technical Equipment	range from 20% to 33.33% per annum

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of an asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year.

i) Intangible Assets

An Bord Pleanála's policy is to account for intangible assets under section 18 of the FRS102. The amortisation of assets commences once the asset is developed and in use:

Plean IT Project	20% per annum straight line
------------------	-----------------------------

j) Capital Account

The Capital Account represents the unamortised amount of income used to purchase fixed assets.

k) Employee Benefits

Short-term Benefits

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Payables figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

l) Retirement Benefits

The Board operates defined benefit superannuation schemes through the medium of four different independent schemes namely:

- An Bord Pleanála Staff Superannuation Scheme 1986 to 2006,
- An Bord Pleanála Staff Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1986,
- An Bord Pleanála (Chairman and Members) Superannuation Scheme 1986 to 2009, and
- An Bord Pleanála (Chairman and Members) Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1986 to 2002.

The payment of superannuation benefits to and in respect of employees and members of the Board is provided for in these defined benefit superannuation schemes approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under section 119 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

The schemes are funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies available to the Board, including monies from exchequer funds provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and from contributions deducted from staff and members' salaries.

Superannuation costs reflect superannuation benefits earned by members and employees in the period and are shown net of staff superannuation contributions, which are retained by the Board. An amount corresponding to the superannuation charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge superannuation payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from exchequer funds provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Superannuation liabilities represent the present value of future superannuation payments earned by staff to date. Deferred superannuation funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from exchequer funds provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

The Board also operates the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is also a defined benefit superannuation scheme for all pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. The rules of the Single Scheme are set down in the

Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act, 2012. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

m) Legal Costs

It is the policy of An Bord Pleanála to discharge its own legal costs associated with applications for judicial review of Board decisions following the conclusion of such cases in the relevant Superior Courts.

It is also the policy of An Bord Pleanála to discharge any legal costs awarded against it following conclusion of cases in accordance with the outcome of either settlement discussions/negotiations or formal taxation of costs by the Office of the Taxing Master.

The Board, where practicable, seeks recovery of its legal costs arising out of legal actions where such costs are awarded by the Courts (see Note 16(a)). Legal costs recovered are accounted for on a cash receipt basis and netted to legal expenditure fees in the current year. Legal recoverable amounts, therefore, are not recorded in the Statement of Financial Position.

The Board makes an estimate of the legal fees on cases that have been decided by the Courts within the financial year. These estimated legal costs are provided for in the Board's financial statements.

Legal fees in respect of cases yet to be decided by the Courts which have been

- Invoiced by the Board's solicitors during the financial year are charged to legal expenditure fees in the year.
- Incurred by the Board but not invoiced by the Board's solicitors within the financial year are estimated and provided for in the Board's financial statements.

In addition, outstanding costs are reviewed and written off when they are deemed to be unrecoverable.

n) Operating Leases

Rental expenditure under operating leases is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves over the life of the lease. Expenditure is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease period.

o) Receivables

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. There are no loans receivable to measure.

p) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 30 days.

q) Payables

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price. There are no other financial liabilities, including bank loans, to measure.

r) Currency in use policy

The financial statements are presented in euro, which is the currency of the primary economic environment in which An Bord Pleanála operates.

s) Critical judgements and estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following estimates have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

(a) Provisions

An Bord Pleanála makes an estimate of the legal provision required at the financial reporting date. The amount in respect of this provision has been estimated at €2,599,877 at the statement of financial position date (Note 16 (c)).

(b) Retirement Benefits Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

Assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) The discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds
- (ii) Future compensation levels, future labour market conditions

2. Oireachtas Grants

The Oireachtas Grants voted to An Bord Pleanála from Vote 25 - Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government as shown in the financial statements consist of:

	Sub-head	2018	2017
		€	€
Grant for current expenditure	D.3	17,031,000	15,779,750
Grant for capital expenditure – Plean-IT Project *	D.3	456,581	1,319,932
		17,487,581	17,099,682

* Remainder Deferred Grant €75,812 within Creditors due within one year figure (Note 14)

3. Fee Income

	2018	2017
	€	€
Fees received in respect of appeal, referrals cases	1,387,417	1,321,687
Refunds in respect of appeals	(109,151)	(89,173)
	1,278,266	1,232,514

	2018	2017
	€	€
Fees received in respect of substitute consent cases *	18,456	52,758
Cost recoupment from applicants in respect of substitute consent cases	11,700	99,816
	30,156	152,574
	1,308,422	1,385,088

* Substitute consent application fees received in accordance with section 177M of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

	2018	2017
	€	€
Fees received in respect of Strategic Housing *	1,685,490	731,188
Refunds in respect of Strategic Housing *	(753,729)	(342,924)
	931,761	388,264

* The Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act, 2016, and the Planning and Development (Strategic Housing Development) Regulations, 2017, under S.I. No. 270 of 2017 and S.I. No. 271 of 2017, came into operation on the 3rd day of July 2017.

Strategic Housing fees are received in accordance with sections 4 and 5 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act, 2016.

Under Section 4 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act, 2016 there is a provision for refund of 50% of the application fees to the relevant Planning Authority.

4. Strategic Infrastructure Fees and Cost Recoupment

	2018	2017
	€	€
Fees received in respect of strategic infrastructure development *	1,882,740	1,311,400
Cost Recoupment from applicants in respect of strategic infrastructure development	262,302	317,440
Refunds paid to applicants in respect of strategic infrastructure	(146,943)	(293,719)
Refund Liability in respect of strategic infrastructure	(183,531)	(84,000)
	1,814,568	1,251,121

* Deferred Fees €200,000 within Creditors due within one year figure (Note 14)

5. Other Revenue

	2018	2017
	€	€
Miscellaneous income	3,995	1,625
Deposit Interest	13	8
	4,008	1,633

6. Salaries and Allowances

At 31 December 2018, the Board consisted of a chairperson and 8 ordinary members, one of whom is also a deputy Chairperson (eight members at the end of 2016). Membership of the Board is wholetime.

In addition to Board members at 31 December 2018, there were:

Whole time equivalent employees	156.9 (147.1 in 2017)
Management	14.7 (14.8 in 2017)
Technical	50.4 (49.9 in 2017)
Administrative	91.8 (82.4 in 2017)

The average number of wholetime equivalent employees during the year was 151 (138 in 2017). Staffing levels are approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

(a) Remuneration and Other Pay Costs

	2018	2017
	€	€
Staff salaries	10,002,627	8,706,095
Annual leave accrual adjustment	48,408	968
Retirement benefit costs (see Note 7(a))	5,173,640	5,034,079
Employer's contribution to social welfare	821,476	704,415
	16,046,151	14,445,557

An amount of €522,482 (2017: €436,119) was paid to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in respect of pension levy.

(b) Chairperson's Remuneration

The total remuneration paid to the Chairperson position in 2018 comprised of:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Salary (Chairperson – Finish 28/8/2018)	123,093	178,640
Salary (Chairperson – Start 30/10/2018)	31,109	0
Benefit-in-Kind* (Chairperson – Finish 28/8/2018)	2,158	2,158
Benefit-in-Kind (Chairperson – Start 30/10/2018)	0	0
Allowances	0	0
	156,360	180,798

The Board and staff of An Bord Pleanála are paid on a fortnightly basis. In 2018, the calendar year fell in such a way that there were 26 pay dates. The Chairperson's pension entitlements do not extend beyond the standard entitlements in the model public sector defined benefit superannuation scheme.

* This relates to the Chairperson's membership of the Association of Chief Executives of State Agencies. The actual cost of this membership was €900 in 2018. Revenue rules require that such membership fees be treated as benefit in kind and be accordingly processed as part of remuneration. As the Chairperson's membership of this body was subscribed in her capacity as Chairperson of the organisation, An Bord Pleanála absorbed any taxes and levies due on this notional income so that net pay would not be affected.

(c) Board Members' Emoluments

Board Member	BIK Professional Membership	Vouched Expenses	Total Expenses
	€	€	€
Dr Mary Kelly, Chairperson (Finish 28/8/2018)	2,158	279	2,437
Dave Walsh, New Chairperson (Start 30/10/2018)	0	0	
Conall Boland, Deputy Chairperson (Finish 31/12/2018)	295	130	425
Paul Hyde	540	287	827
Philip Jones	220	272	492
Eugene Nixon (Start 12/06/2017, Finish 21/12/2018)	0	0	0
Terry Prendergast (Start 02/08/2017)	220	205	425
Terry Ó Niadh (Start 04/09/2017)	650	0	650
John Connolly (Start 18/09/2017)	390	0	390
Dr Maria Fitzgerald (Start 10/07/2017)	0	167	167
Michelle Fagan (Start 12/2/2018)		38	38
Stephen Bohan (Start 11/6/2018)		0	0
	4,473	1,378	5,851

(d) Disclosure of key management

Key management includes the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Board Members, Chief Officer, Director of Planning and Director of Corporate Affairs. The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Salaries and other short-term benefits	1,581,608	1,266,445

7. Retirement Benefit Costs**(a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves**

	2018	2017
	€,000	€,000
Current service costs	3,221	3,158
Interest on retirement benefit scheme liabilities	2,370	2,277
Employee Contributions	(416)	(401)
	5,175	5,034

(b) Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	2018	2017
	€,000	€,000
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 January	(125,064)	(126,898)
Current service costs	(3,221)	(3,158)
Interest costs	(2,370)	(2,277)
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(1,618)	4,896
Pensions paid in the year	2,725	2,373
Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December	(129,548)	(125,064)

(c) Deferred funding for retirement benefits

The Board recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit schemes, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The Board has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The net deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves was as follows:

	2018	2017
	€,000	€,000
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	5,591	5,435
State grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(2,725)	(2,373)
	2,866	3,062

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31st December 2018 amounts to €129.5m (2017: €125.1m).

(d) History of defined benefit obligations

	2018	2017	2016	2015
	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000
Defined benefit obligations (see Note 7(f))	129,548	125,064	126,898	110,639
Experience losses/(gains) on defined benefit scheme liabilities	4,568	(5,173)	(4,134)	(1,776)
Percentage of scheme liabilities	3.53%	4.14%	3.25%	1.6%

(e) General description of the schemes

The retirement benefit schemes currently administered in the Board are as follows;

- An Bord Pleanála Staff Superannuation Scheme, 1986 - 2006
- An Bord Pleanála Staff Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme, 1986 - 2006
- An Bord Pleanála (Chairman and Members) Superannuation Scheme, 1986 to 2009
- An Bord Pleanála (Chairman and Members) Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme, 1986 to 2009

The above schemes are defined benefit final salary pension arrangements with benefits and contributions defined by reference to the schemes and general pension regulations. Normal retirement age on the above schemes is 65, with entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction at age 60 and a maximum of age 70 in line with the Public Service Superannuation (Age of Retirement) Act, 2018. Post-April 2004 members do not have a maximum retirement age.

- Single Public Service Pension Scheme (SPSPS) Note 7(f)

Since 2013, the Board have administered the SPSPS, it is a CPI-linked defined-benefit pensions based on career-average pay. Normal pension age set, initially, at 66 years; this will rise in step with statutory changes in the State Pension age to 67 years in 2021 and 68 years in 2028. It has a compulsory retirement age of 70.

All the above schemes provide an annual pension, lump sum payment and are subject to spouses and children's pensions entitlements.

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation performed on 8th February 2019 by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31st December 2018.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	2018	2017
Rate of increase in salaries	2.90%	3.05%
Rate of increase in retirement benefits in payment	2.40%	3.05%
Discount rate	1.86%	1.90%
Inflation rate	1.70%	1.85%

Mortality

58% of PNML00 for males with improvements (see below).

62% of PNFL00 for females with improvements (see below).

Annuity factors increase by 0.36% p.a. (Males not in Spouses and Children's Scheme) to 0.30% p.a. (Females not in Spouses and Children's Scheme and Members of Spouses and Children's Scheme) for each year between 2014 and the year of retirement.

The mortality basis explicitly allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age. The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2018 and 2038.

Year of attaining age 65	2018	2038
Life expectancy – male	21.4	23.8
Life expectancy – female	23.9	25.9

(f) Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme)

The Board operates the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is also a defined benefit superannuation scheme for all pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. The rules of the Single Scheme are set down in the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act, 2012. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

An amount of €108,887 (2017: €43,887) was paid to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in respect of the Single Scheme.

The Single Scheme provides for a pension and retirement lump sum based on career-average pensionable remuneration, and spouse's and children's pensions. The minimum pension age is 66 years (rising in line with State pension age changes). It includes an actuarially-reduced early retirement facility from age 55. Pensions in payment increase in line with the consumer price index.

The defined benefit obligation figure relating to the Single Scheme is recognised as €600,000 (2017: €200,000) This figure is included the total defined benefit obligations figure of €129,548,000 (2017: €125,064,000) in Note 7 (d).

8. Establishment Expenses

	Note	2018	2017
		€	€
Rent and service charges **	18	1,538,891	1,861,086
Repairs and maintenance		25,897	78,781
Insurance		30,686	28,244
Light and Heat		87,481	86,219
Depreciation		398,948	383,159
		2,081,903	2,437,489

* €1,538,891 figure includes €3,727 hospitality expenses

€6,620 monies collected from staff in relation to the provision of beverages/snacks are off-set against Rent and service charges

9. Operating Expenses

	Note	2018	2017
		€	€
Travel and subsistence *		180,471	165,851
Legal fees	16	3,286,392	3,153,108
Office equipment and stationery		242,627	239,699
Information and communications technology	17	1,244,624	448,899
ICT Plean IT Project	17	322,428	608,054
Printing and books		20,600	14,884
Statutory notices		65,678	64,593
Recruitment, staff training and development and conferences		147,365	113,939
Telephone and postage		151,730	117,731
Consultants' fees and services	17	229,844	271,495
Audit fees		18,000	18,000
Provision for Doubtful Debt		4,571	11,813
Sundries		8,588	6,910
		5,922,918	5,234,976

* €180,471 figure includes €1,017 foreign travel expenses

10. Reduction in Value of Fixed Assets

	Note	2018	2017
		€	€
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	12	398,948	383,159
		398,948	383,159

11. Capital Account

	2018	2017
	€	€
Opening balance	1,012,222	513,263
Income allocated for capital purposes (gross of asset disposals)	208,868	882,118
Amount released on disposal of fixed assets	(0)	(0)
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	(398,948)	(383,159)
Closing balance	822,142	1,012,222

12. Non-Current Assets-Fixed Assets¹ and Intangible Assets²

	Leasehold Premises ¹	Furniture & Fittings ¹	IT & Office Equipment ¹	PleanIT Project ²	Total
Cost	€	€	€	€	€
At 1 January	6,683,225	484,459	1,880,729	946,363	9,994,776
Additions	0	0	74,715	134,153	208,868
Disposals	0	0	(142,238)	0	(142,238)
At 31 December	6,683,225	484,459	1,813,206	1,080,516	10,061,406
Depreciation					
At 1 January	6,669,433	338,710	1,726,553	247,858	8,982,554
Charge for the year	13,792	64,073	104,979	216,104	398,948
Disposals	0	0	(142,238)	0	(142,238)
At 31 December	6,683,225	402,783	1,689,294	463,962	9,239,264
Net Book Value					
At 1 January	13,792	145,749	154,176	698,505	1,012,222
Net movement for the year	(13,792)	(64,073)	(30,264)	(81,951)	(190,080)
At 31 December	0	81,676	123,912	616,554	822,142

¹ Non-Current Assets-Fixed Assets

² PleanIT Project - Non Physical Assets in the course of development which include knowledge, software and other intangible computer based assets

In October 2017, An Bord Pleanála deployed a case management and geographic information system with cases received input for processing and decision using this new platform. By the end of 2018, the bulk of cases were handled by An Bord Pleanála using the new case management system launched in the previous year. A number of changes were specified and deployed by vendors, Opensky, to improve efficiency of the system and add new functionality. The delivery of the case management and geographic information systems was the first phase of the Plean-IT project. The remaining phases, which will enable a fully digital service to the public including online submission of cases and greater accessibility to documentation, which were originally expected to commence in 2018 will now commence delivery in 2020 for completion by the end of 2020.

13. Receivables

	2018	2017
	€	€
Debtors	17,898	86,998
Less Provision for Doubtful Debt *	(7,681)	(15,658)
Net Debtors	10,217	71,340
Prepayments	653,448	566,112
	663,665	637,452

* Comparative Figures: The Provision for Doubtful Debt in 2017 has been reclassified for consistency with the current year presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on the reported results

14. Payables

Amounts falling due within one year

	2018	2017
	€	€
Trade Creditors	28,748	118,545
Taxation and Social Welfare due to Revenue	441,258	312,256
Legal Provisions (Note 16c)	2,599,877	2,040,502
Deferred Grant Income (Note 2)	75,812	49,393
Deferred Fee Income (Note 4)	200,000	0
Accruals	1,708,778	1,222,698
	5,054,473	3,743,394

15. Contingencies with Regard To Legal Actions

There is a contingent liability of an undetermined amount as a result of legal actions against the Board in relation to its decisions on planning appeals and other cases. It is the Board's policy to contest such actions, where appropriate.

16. Legal Costs

As indicated at note 1(m) in the Statement of Accounting Policies, certain legal costs are initially borne by the Board and recovery is pursued. The situation in 2018 regarding these recoverable costs was as follows:

(a) Recoverable Legal Costs (memorandum):

	2018	2017
	€	€
Outstanding at 1 January	1,803,455	1,820,981
Recovered during year ¹	(535,563)	(427,639)
Recoverable costs arising during year	726,996	410,113
Costs written off during year	(114,931)	(0)
Costs re-designated during year ²	825	0
	1,880,782	1,803,455

The Board continually reviews the recoverability of the above costs. It is anticipated that a substantial amount thereof will not be recovered.

¹ The amount recovered was netted to legal fees in the current year.

² Costs which were initially deemed recoverable prior to the completion of legal actions and are now being re-designated on foot of court decisions.

(b) Legal Fees:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Recoverable costs arising during year	726,996	410,113
Recovered during year	(535,563)	(427,639)
Net recoverable costs	191,433	(17,526)
Non-recoverable costs	1,886,892	2,300,660
Non-recoverable applicant costs	1,208,067	869,974
	3,286,392	3,153,108

(c) Reconciliation of movement in Legal Provisions for the year ended 31st December 2018:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Legal provision as at 1 January	2,040,502	2,495,000
Legal payments made in year	(1,041,897)	(1,607,000)
Change in provisions from previous year	126,272	(147,498)
Provision for decided cases in year	975,000	600,000
Provisions relating to un-decided cases to date	500,000	700,000
Legal provision as at 31 December (Note 14)	2,599,877	2,040,502

17. Consultants' Fees and Services

The Board engages part-time consultant inspectors on a fee-per-case basis in accordance with rates approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. In addition, the Board engages, in accordance with section 124 of the Act, other consultants and advisors, as it is necessary for the performance of its functions. In 2018, 0.77% (2017:1.32%) of all inspectors' reports came from consultant inspectors and their fees, along with associated costs relating to recording of oral hearings, accounted for 58% (2017:49.75%) of all consultancy fees and services costs.

No fee amount (€3,000:2017) was paid to any external member of the audit committee however expenses of €253 (€330:2017) were paid to two external members of the audit committee. These amounts are included in the heading "Consultants' fees and services" in Note 9.

18. Lease Commitments

The Board occupies and pays rent on premises at 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 which is held on a 25 year lease from January 2002.

A rent review relating to rent from January 2017 took place in 2018. Following the outcome of this rent review An Bord Pleanála estimates the following lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2018
	€'000
Payable within one year	1,296
Payable within two to five years	5,183
Payable after five years	3,887
	10,366

Operating lease amounts recognised as an expense total €1,103,673 (2017: €1,461,443) which includes a saving of €190,623 relating to the 2017 rent arrears provision prior to the rent review outcome in 2018.

The costs in relation to the fit-out and certain other matters, other than normal establishment and operating costs, were allocated for capital purposes and included under Leasehold Premises in Fixed Assets. Ongoing improvements to the premises are treated in a similar manner.

19. Board Members & Staff Interests

The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies requires a written code of conduct for Board members and employees. A Code in compliance with the guidelines is in operation and is available on the Board's website (see 5.1 of the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies).

In addition, members and certain staff are subject to the requirements of the Ethics in Public Office Acts, 1995 and 2001, and yearly statements of registrable interests are made under the Acts. In 2018, eight (8) existing members made statements in accordance with the Acts.

Board members and certain staff are required to make declarations/disclosures of interests in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

Section 147 of the 2000 Act provides for statutory declarations by members and certain staff in relation to certain interests. A register of interests is maintained by the Secretary in accordance with section 147 of the Act and is available for public inspection during office hours.

Section 148 of the 2000 Act relates to disclosures regarding a pecuniary or other beneficial interest in, or which is material to, any appeal or other matter to be determined by the Board. In 2018, Board members made four (4) disclosures, staff made three (3) disclosures and consultants made zero (0) disclosures.

Under section 150 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, the Board has adopted a code of conduct for dealing with conflicts of interest and promoting public confidence in the integrity of the conduct of its business. The code applies to members, certain staff and other persons whose services are availed of by the Board. In 2018, four (4) members made disclosures, three (3) staff made disclosures and zero (0) consultants made disclosures under the Code.

20. Events after the reporting date

There are no events after the reporting date to report.

21. Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of An Bord Pleanála on 13th June 2019.



Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas An Bord Pleanála

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of An Bord Pleanála for the year ended 31 December 2018 as required under the provisions of section 117 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of An Bord Pleanála at 31 December 2018 and of its income and expenditure for 2018 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 - *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of An Bord Pleanála and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

An Bord Pleanála has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Board members' report and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.



Andrew Harkness

For and on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General
19 June 2019

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under section 117 of the Planning and Development Act 2000
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under Section 117 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to audit the financial statements of An Bord Pleanála and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could be reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.

- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on An Bord Pleanála's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause An Bord Pleanála to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance, regarding among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Information other than financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1: Statistics Available**
- **Appendix 2: Planning appeals received and decided by area**
- **Appendix 3: Staff, external consultants and legal agents 2018**



Appendix 1

Statistics Available

The following tables of statistics are available at www.pleanala.ie

1. Summary of All Planning Cases
2. Average Time Taken to Dispose of Cases (weeks)
3. Planning Appeals Received / Disposed / On Hands Cases
4. Strategic Infrastructure Development Cases (Private Entities and Statutory Undertakers)
5. Strategic Infrastructure Applications (Private Entities and Statutory Undertakers) Received in 2018
6. Strategic Infrastructure Development Cases (Local Authorities)
7. Strategic Infrastructure Development Applications (Local Authorities) Received in 2018
8. Local Authority Projects
9. Appropriate Assessment Cases
10. Strategic Housing Development Cases 2018
11. Vacant Site Levy
12. Other Planning Case Types
13. Summary of Other Non-Planning Cases
14. Analysis of planning appeal decisions
15. Planning appeals received by development category / area
16. Summary of all cases disposed of by reference to statutory objective period)

Appendix 2

Planning appeals received and decided by area

Received 2018

	No. of decisions made by planning authority ²	No. of decisions appealed	% of decisions appealed	Decisions appealed as a % of all appeals ³
County Area ¹				
Carlow	283	18	6.4%	0.9%
Cavan	523	17	3.3%	0.8%
Clare	912	41	4.5%	2.0%
Cork	2,896	157	5.4%	7.7%
Donegal	1,282	41	3.2%	2.0%
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown	1,426	226	15.9%	11.1%
Fingal	1,176	121	10.3%	6.0%
Galway	1,626	81	5.0%	4.0%
Kerry	1,097	62	5.7%	3.1%
Kildare	1,249	86	6.9%	4.2%
Kilkenny	712	36	5.1%	1.8%
Laois	560	18	3.2%	0.9%
Leitrim	171	2	1.2%	0.1%
Longford	228	15	6.6%	0.7%
Louth	748	55	7.4%	2.7%
Mayo	882	34	3.9%	1.7%
Meath	1,186	59	5.0%	2.9%
Monaghan	525	15	2.9%	0.7%
Offaly	457	19	4.2%	0.9%
Roscommon	460	20	4.4%	1.0%
Sligo	411	13	3.2%	0.6%
South Dublin	858	88	10.3%	4.3%
Tipperary	1,030	26	2.5%	1.3%
Westmeath	505	24	4.8%	1.8%
Wexford	1,327	58	4.4%	2.9%
Wicklow	957	90	9.4%	4.4%
City				
Cork	413	52	12.6%	2.6%
Dublin	2,711	418	15.4%	20.6%
Galway	378	42	11.1%	2.7%
City and County				
Limerick	1,091	60	5.5%	3.0%
Waterford	705	34	4.8%	1.7%
Total	28,785	2,028	7.04%	100.0%

¹ 'Area' is a county planning authority and all other planning authorities in that area except city councils.

² Figures of decisions made by planning authorities courtesy of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

³ Decisions do not include 333 otherwise disposed cases.

Appendix 2

Planning appeals received and decided by area

Decided 2018

	No. of formal decisions ³	% of planning authority decisions confirmed	% of planning authority decisions varied	% of planning authority decisions reversed
County Area ¹				
Carlow	10	20%	60%	20%
Cavan	18	28%	61%	11%
Clare	38	15%	65%	20%
Cork	118	14%	68%	18%
Donegal	26	23%	46%	31%
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown	200	25%	49%	25%
Fingal	128	27%	58%	15%
Galway	60	23%	41%	36%
Kerry	61	18%	41%	41%
Kildare	73	34%	49%	17%
Kilkenny	31	19%	56%	25%
Laois	12	25%	67%	8%
Leitrim	4	50%	25%	25%
Longford	14	36%	29%	36%
Louth	51	12%	58%	31%
Mayo	26	31%	50%	19%
Meath	46	11%	48%	41%
Monaghan	11	55%	36%	9%
Offaly	17	44%	44%	11%
Roscommon	19	32%	37%	32%
Sligo	8	0%	63%	38%
South Dublin	87	29%	49%	22%
Tipperary	24	17%	67%	17%
Westmeath	17	24%	47%	29%
Wexford	57	30%	44%	26%
Wicklow	85	39%	44%	17%
City				
Cork	47	17%	62%	21%
Dublin	391	22%	56%	22%
Galway	37	32%	43%	24%
City and County				
Limerick	60	30%	56%	15%
Waterford	30	13%	50%	37%
Total	1,806	24%	53%	23%

¹ 'Area' is a county planning authority and all other planning authorities in that area except city councils.

² Figures of decisions made by planning authorities courtesy of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

³ Decisions do not include 333 otherwise disposed cases.

Appendix 3

Staff, external consultants and legal agents 2018

Staff, External Consultants and Legal Agents as at 31st December 2018

The following staff were employed as of 31st December 2018:

Chief Officer

Loretta Lambkin.

Director of Planning

Rachel Kenny.

Director of Corporate Affairs

Gerard Egan.

Assistant Directors of Planning

Philip Green, Anne Marie O'Connor, Tom Rabbette, Brendan Wyse.

Senior Administrative Officers

Chris Clarke (Rúnaí / Secretary), Diarmuid Collins, Bríd Hill, Mary Holohan, Mary Kelly, Carol Moloney, Ellen Morrin, Paddy Tallon.

Senior Planning Inspectors

Patricia Callear, Paul Caprani, Erika Casey, Una Crosse, Mary Crowley, Philip Davis, Jane Dennehy, John Desmond, Michael Dillon, Lorraine Dockery, Pauline Fitzpatrick, Breda Gannon, Stephen Kay, Gillian Kane, Suzanne Kehely, Joanna Kelly, Ciara Kellett, Mary Kennelly, Karen Kenny, Mairead Kenny, Hugh Mannion, Karla McBride, Susan McHugh, Dolores McCague, Deirdre MacGabhann, Conor McGrath, Kevin Moore, Una O'Neill, Sarah Moran, Stephen O'Sullivan, Fiona Tynan.

Senior Executive Officers

Bronwyn Byrne, Muiríosa Cassells, Barry Devine, Pierce Dillon, Kieran Doherty, Marcella Doyle, Gavin Duffy, Jane Gilvarry, Josephine Hayes, Gráinne Kelly, Anne Killian, Eimear Mangan, Nora Ryan, Colm Walsh, Siobhan White.

Planning Inspectors

Angela Brereton, Siobhan Carroll, Auriol Considine, Caryn Coogan, Donal Donnelly, Emer Doyle, Fiona Fair, Karen Hamilton, Niall Haverty, Leslie Howard, Paddy Keogh, Sarah Lynch, Colin McBride, Dáire McDevitt, Colm McLoughlin, Bríd Maxwell, Kenneth Moloney, Hugh Morrison, Ronan O'Connor, Stephen Rhys-Thomas, Robert Speer, Patricia Young.

Executive Officers

Síle Bannon, Miriam Baxter, Frances Barrett, Darina Boyle, Stewart Browne, Sarah Byrne, Philip Canny, Roslyn Collins, Cora Cunningham, Stephen Deighan, Neil Doherty, Rita Donnelly, Julie Anne Dunne, Nóirín Finnegan, Regina Fitzgerald, Rob Forde, Seamus Grant, Ciaran Hand, Niamh Hanrahan, Anna Howard, Peter Janković, Violet Kennedy, Mark Kielty, Fergal Kilmurray, Patricia Leggett, Sinéad McInerney, Bríd McManus, Leonard Mangan,

Aisling Matthews, Susan Maxwell, Nichola Meehan, Sue Morel, Carmel Morgan, Wayne Moss, Laura Perry, Lisa Quinn, Sean Ryan, Jennifer Sherry, Lianna Slowey, SORCHA Skelly, Kieran Somers, Niamh Thornton, Bríd Tiernan, Mary Tucker, Patricia Wall, Maeve Williams.

Administrative Assistants

Steven Baldesco, Audrey Boyle, Christine Brennan, Denise Byrne, Karen Byrne, Tony Byrne, Eoghan Connaughton, Hannah Cullen, Lita Clarke, Bill Coleman, Ian Conroy, Shannen Daly, Caroline Dennis, Garry Dorgan, Tara Doyle, Aoife Duffy, Edel Ennis, Siobhan Gavin, Josephine Halpin, Emma Haughan, Leanne Hobbs, Caitríona Holland, Helen Keane, Erica Kearns, Anna Kelsh, Mary Ledwith, Yvonne McCormack, Shaun McGee, Ellen McKittrick, Mark Masterson, Orla Moloney, Susan Moloney, Christina Noctor, David O'Hara, Eoin O'Sullivan, Aisling Reilly, Chloe Rogers, Fergal Ryan, Wendy Sullivan, Stephen Sutton, Katie Weir, Aoife Whelan.

The following were engaged during 2018:

External Consultants

Abate Counselling, Arcline Records Management, Catalyso, Claymon, Cundall, FRS - Dr. Raymond Connolly, Derek Daly, JGA Engineering - Martin Davidson, esri Ireland, Evros (Rao Rapolu), Luke Fegan, Des Fortune, Denise Germaine, Stefan Hyde, GES (Geotechnical & Environmental System) – Jerome Keohane, Hydro-G – Dr Pamela Bartley, Institute of Public Administration, Des Johnson, Maurice Johnson, Dermot Kelly, Kilgallen, Marine Planning Matters, Mazars, MHOC Consult - Design Build Matters, Rory McShane, Michael Mohan, NALA, Eamon O'Boyle, Eoin O Cofaigh, Daniel O'Connor, O'Herlihy Access - Eoin O'Herlihy, Michael O'Rourke, Brendan O'Sullivan, OpenSky Data Systems, PwC, Retirement Planning, Clare Rowland, Savilles, Michael Slattery, Padraic Thornton, Colm Traynor, Willis.

Legal Agents

Philip Lee, McDowell Purcell

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902

t: +353 1 858 8100

e: bord@pleanala.ie

w: www.pleanala.ie

design by: wonder works

