# Foilsiú na Tuarascála agus na gCuntas Bliantúil 2015

# Publication of Annual Report and Accounts 2015

**9 Lúnasa, 2016 - Inniu, d'fhoilsigh an Bord Pleanála a Thuarascáil agus a Chuntais Bhliantúla.**

I gcaitheamh 2015, mhéadaigh líon na gcásanna a fuair an Bord Pleanála de 9% i gcomparáid leis an mbliain roimhe sin, rud a léiríonn méadú ar ghníomhaíocht tógála. Lean an treocht sin isteach sa chéad leath de 2016 nuair a mhéadaigh cásanna nua de 21% i gcomparáid leis an tréimhse chéanna anuraidh.

Bhí an fheidhmíocht ó thaobh cásanna a chinneadh laistigh de spriocthréimhsí reachtúla láidir i 2015 agus cuireadh 83% de chásanna pleanála de láimh laistigh den spriocthréimhse de 18 seachtaine (81% idir Eanáir agus Meitheamh 2016). Laghdaigh meánlíon na seachtainí a thóg sé achomhairc phleanála a chinneadh ó 16 seachtaine i 2014 go 15 seachtaine faoi dheireadh 2015.

Eisíodh cinntí i gcás forbairtí móra bonneagair straitéisigh i seacht gcinn de chásanna lena n-áirítear athfhorbairt Phort Bhaile Átha Cliath, Phort Rinn an Scidígh (Corcaigh), an Ospidéil Náisiúnta Athshlánúcháin i nDún Laoghaire, an Ospidéil Náisiúnta Mheabhairsheirbhísí Fóiréinseacha, Port Reachrainn agus feirmeacha gaoithe ag an gCladán, Co. Mhaigh Eo agus ag na hArd-doiriú, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Lean ceanglais na Treorach maidir le Gnáthóga i gcás measúnú chuí de dhúshlán a chur faoi fhorbróirí a d'iarr cead pleanála do thionscadail. Bíonn ardchaighdeán sonraí agus faisnéise suirbhé de dhíth sna Ráitis Measúnaithe Natura is gá nuair a mheastar go mbeidh tionchar suntasach ag tionscadal ar láithreáin Natura AE. Tar éis an mheasúnaithe, má tá amhras réasúnta ann i gcónaí, ceanglaítear ar an

**9th August, 2016 - An Bord Pleanála today published its 2015 Annual Report and Accounts.**

During 2015, the number of cases received by An Bord Pleanála was up 9% on the previous year reflecting the reported increase in construction activity. That trend has continued in the first half of 2016 with case intake up 21% compared with the same period last year.

Performance in terms of deciding cases within statutory deadlines was strong in 2015 with 83% of planning appeals being disposed of within the target of 18 weeks (81% January to June 2016). The average number of weeks to decide planning appeals was down from 16 weeks in 2014 to 15 weeks by the end of 2015.

Decisions for large strategic infrastructure developments were issued for seven cases including the redevelopment of Dublin Port, Ringaskiddy Port (Cork), the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dun Laoghaire, National Forensic Mental Health Services Hospital, Portrane and windfarms at Cluddaun, Co. Mayo and Ardderoo, Co. Galway.

The requirements of the Habitats Directive in relation to appropriate assessment continue to pose challenges for developers seeking planning permission for projects. The standard of survey data and information to be provided in Natura Impact Statements required when projects are deemed likely to have a significant impact on EU Natura sites is extremely high. Following assessment, where reasonable

mBord diúltú don fhorbairt nó tuilleadh faisnéise a lorg chun nach mbeidh aon amhras sa scéal. Lean moilleanna fada sa chinnteoireacht i gcásanna áirithe as sin, agus diúltaíodh do roinnt forbairtí a d'fhéadfaí a cheadú i gcásanna eile.

I 2016 ullmhóidh an Bord Pleanála straitéis nua le cinntiú go bhfuil na hacmhainní is gá ag an eagraíocht chun dúshláin na linne seo agus na todhchaí a chomhlíonadh i gcóras pleanála atá ag éirí níos casta i gcónaí agus i bhfianaise an leathnaithe ar réimsí inniúlachta. Cuirfear san áireamh anseo torthaí an athbhreithnithe neamhspleách ar an mBord Pleanála a rinneadh i 2015 agus a foilsíodh i Márta 2016. Áirítear ar an athbhreithniú moltaí a thógann ar theist an Bhoird Phleanála go dtí seo agus a chinntíonn go bhfuil sé oiriúnach dá fheidhm i dtimpeallacht oibre atá ag athrú go gasta agus atá níos casta ná riamh.

Dúirt Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Phleanála, an Dr. Mary Kelly:

> "Táimid mórtasach as an dea-cháil orainn a d'admhaigh an Grúpa Athbhreithnithe agus oibreoimid go dian chun an dea-cháil sin a choimeád. Tá i gceist againn an t-athbhreithniú a úsáid mar ionchur chun straitéis a fhorbairt do na blianta amach romhainn le cinntiú go mbíonn an Bord Pleanála suite go maith, acmhainnithe agus i mbun oibre chun dúshláin na todhchaí a chomhlíonadh."

Cuirfear san áireamh i straitéis an Bhoird Phleanála bearta a leagadh amach sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta um Thithíocht, Atógáil na hÉireann, a foilsíodh le deireanas, chun freagrúlacht agus solúbthacht an chórais phleanála a bhreisiú. Tá an Bord Pleanála ag gabháil do phlé maidir leis an tslí is fearr le córais a riaradh, córas trínar féidir iarratais dhíreacha a dhéanamh i gcás forbairtí tithíochta ina bhfuil os cionn 100 aonad. Dúirt an Dr. Mary Kelly, "Tá a fhios againn uile go bhfuil fadhb mhór easpa dídine agus ganntanas tithíochta ann agus tá geallta agam don Aire go ndéanfaidh an Bord Pleanála a chion chun réiteach a fháil ar na fadhbanna seo."

scientific doubt remains, the Board is obliged to refuse the development or to seek further information to remove such doubt. This has led to delays in decision making in some cases and to a number of developments, which otherwise may have gone ahead, being turned down.

In 2016, An Bord Pleanála will prepare a new Strategy to ensure the organisation is equipped to successfully meet the present and future challenges of an increasingly legally complex planning system and within expanded areas of competence. This will take into account the findings of the independent review of An Bord Pleanála conducted during 2015 and published in March 2016. The review includes recommendations which build on the track record of An Bord Pleanála and ensure its fitness for purpose in a fast-changing and more complex operational environment.

Chairperson of An Bord Pleanála, Dr. Mary Kelly said,

> "We are proud of the excellent reputation acknowledged by the Review Group which we will continue to work assiduously to maintain. We intend to use the review as an important input in developing a strategy for the coming years to ensure An Bord Pleanála is appropriately positioned, resourced and operated to meet the challenges of the future."

An Bord Pleanála's strategy will also take into account measures set out in the recently published Action Plan for Housing, Rebuilding Ireland to enhance the responsiveness and flexibility of the planning system. An Bord Pleanála is involved in discussions on how best to administer a system to allow for direct applications for housing developments greater than 100 units. Dr. Mary Kelly said, "We are all aware of the problems of homelessness and housing shortages and I have assured the Minister that An Bord Pleanála will play its part to contribute to a solution to these problems."

Rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach ar phleananna le haghaidh achomhairc phleanála agus seirbhís iarratais ar líne, nithe atá mar chuid de mhór-infheistíocht in ICT atá déanta ag an mBord Pleanála. Tá sé ceaptha an tseirbhís a thabhairt isteach i 2017.

Significant progress was made on plans for an online planning appeals and application service which forms part of a major investment in ICT for An Bord Pleanála. It is intended that the service will be in operation in 2017.

Gheofar Tuarascáil agus Cuntais Bhliantúla an Bhoird Phleanála 2015 ag  www.pleanala.ie.

An Bord Pleanála's Annual Report and Accounts 2015 is available at www.pleanala.ie.