

Provision of information to members of the Oireachtas by An Bord Pleanála
Quarter 3 2023: 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023

Query Number: OIR/23/13

Date Received: 6th of September 2023

Query Subject: Staffing/HR

Deputy/Senator: Eoin Ó Broin TD

Acknowledged: 6th of September 2023

Substantive Reply Issued: 23rd of October 2023

Language: English

Query:

To provide a list of the staff positions that ABP which have received sanction for from the Department of Housing in the last 12 months, indicating the level of funding required for each of these positions and which ones have to date been recruited.

Substantive Reply:

Please see attached the Word Document entitled "[Information Request E'OB OIR 23 013](#)"

In order to assist you with understanding the table, please note explanation of the following abbreviations:

- **SHD/LRD** – Strategic Housing Development / Large-scale Residential Development,
- **SID** – Strategic Infrastructure Development,
- **MAP** – Marine Area Planning,
- **CORP** – Corporate Affairs.

Please also note the following:

- A competition was held for the SEO ICT posts but that process concluded without any suitable candidates being identified to fill those posts. This situation is now under review in terms of assessing next steps.
- The application stage for the Director of Transformation and Digital Services role has now closed and the process will now continue with shortlisting and interview stages to follow.

Query Number: OIR/23/14

Date Received: 12th of September 2023

Query Subject: IT/Corporate

Deputy/Senator: Senator Victor Boyhan

Acknowledged: 22nd of September 2023

Substantive Reply Issued: 24th of October 2023

Language: English

Query:

- To confirm when it will be possible for members of the public to fully access and interact online planning documentation, drawings in relation to appeals or Fast-track planning applications before the board.
- Officials from the Board previously outlined to the Oireachtas committee on Planning that the IT Planning System was piloted by An Bord Pleanála and that it was to live. Please advise when this will be the case.

Substantive Reply:

The Board, as referred to by officers, is now accepting all planning authority documentation electronically when associated with an appeal, relating to a planning application which has been submitted to the particular planning authority using the LGMA on-line portal.

The Board is currently dealing with 100+ such cases and is utilising a 'hybrid' file e.g. a mixture of hard copy appeal documentation with the electronic planning authority documentation received from the planning authority. We are currently exploring how the electronic planning authority documents can then be made available on the Board's website when the case is decided. Although acknowledging that the planning authority documents are already available electronically on the planning authority's own website.

Whilst progress has been made in relation to the Board's systems being prepared to receive appeals online from the public together with the appropriate fee, as per the current facility to accept observations online with fee, the legislation is still awaited to enable appeals to be made electronically. The Board is hopeful that this will be covered in the new Planning and Development Bill and or associated Regulations.

Query Number: OIR/23/15

Date Received: 27th of September 2023

Query Subject: HR/Planning

Deputy/Senator: Verona Murphy TD

Acknowledged: 29th of September 2023

Substantive Reply Issued: 23rd of October 2023

Language: English

Query:

1. How many planning appeal cases are currently outstanding and awaiting a decision? How many of the current appeal cases are beyond the 18 weeks statutory period?
2. How many personnel are currently employed by An Bord Pleanála to decide on planning appeals?
3. How many categories of planning appeals there are? i.e., one off residential applicants, commercial, LRD (Large Residential Developments) etc.
4. Please advise who is the current CEO of An Bord Pleanála.

Substantive Reply:

1. To the end of September 2023, 2,057 Normal Planning Appeal cases are currently on hand, and 1,493 are on hand beyond the statutory objective period.

To the end of September 2023, 13 Large Scale Residential Appeals are on hand, and 1 is on hand beyond the statutory objective period.

2. We currently have 15 Board members – 1 interim Chairperson, 1 Deputy Chair and 13 Ordinary Board members. Technically only 4 are full term Board members (5-year appointments) and 11 are interim/secondment arrangements.

3. An Bord Pleanála deals with planning appeals in respect of all types of proposed development. The board's computer database currently categorises 253 different potential proposed development types including, for example, various subcategories of proposed residential development.

4. The CEO of An Bord Pleanála would be the Chairperson in terms of the function of the post. In this regard, Peter Mullan is currently interim Chairperson, since 2nd September 2023. His appointment is until 1st September 2024, or until a permanent appointment is made.