



## **Statement on recent media commentary in relation to planning appeals**

Promoting public confidence and preserving the integrity of the planning process are key values that inform the work of An Bord Pleanála (The Board).

The Board is aware of the recent, serious allegations raised in the media. It cannot comment on the specific allegations raised as they relate to specific matters before the Board.

The Board is duty bound to accept appeals validly made in accordance with Section 127 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended. Furthermore, the Board is required by legislation to process all appeals and assess the planning issues raised. In the event however that the Board receives information questioning the bona fides of an appeal in the context of the statutory provisions of the 2000 Act, it may decide to activate other powers available to it under the Planning Act to probe the matter, and/or possibly refer the matter onto other appropriate authorities. The Board does not have any investigative powers.

In the last 5 years a total of 38 cases were dismissed under various provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended including appeals dismissed as being either vexatious, frivolous or without substance or foundation or having regard to the nature of the appeal. No cases were dismissed under subsection 1 (a) (ii) of section 138 (sole intention of delaying the development for the intention of securing the payment of money, gifts, consideration or other inducement).

If any person believes that an appeal or application process is being used with the sole intention of delaying a proposed development for the intention of securing the payment of money, gifts, consideration or other inducement this can be brought to the attention of the Board within the statutory appeal process. However, where a person believes that criminality may also be involved the matter should be referred by that person to An Garda Síochána who are the appropriate authority to deal with any such allegations. An Bord Pleanála will cooperate with An Garda Síochána or other State Authorities in the event of any investigations by such bodies into allegations of criminality.

ENDS.

08/12/2023