Provision of information to members of the Oireachtas by An Bord Pleanála

Quarter 3 2024: 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024

Query Number: OIR24/016   **Date Received:** 24th of July 2024

Query Subject: Planning   **Deputy/Senator:** Cathal Crowe TD

Acknowledged: 24th of July 2024

Substantive Reply Issued: 29th of July 2024

Language: English

Query:

The number of planning applications for wind or solar farms received nationally in the past five years that were referred to An Bord Pleanála; and the number that were subsequently refused by An Bord Pleanála, in tabular form.

Substantive Reply:

I refer to your email dated the 24th of July 2024 on behalf of Cathal Crowe.

Please find below the completed table of solar and wind farm appeals dated from the 1st of July 2019 to the 30th of June 2024.

Appeals Received between 1st July 2019 - 30th June 2024

Farm Type	No. of Valid Appeals Received	Number Refused
Solar	84	6
Wind	115	32

Query Number: OIR24/017   **Date Received:** 27th of August 2024

Query Subject: Human Resources   **Deputy/Senator:** Victor Boyhan Senator

Acknowledged: 28th of August 2024

Substantive Reply Issued: 28th of August 2024

Language: English

Query:

Can you please advise if you have prepared a Bio and Pic of each of the 8 new full-time members appointed to the Board.

Substantive Reply:

I refer to your email dated the 27th of August 2024 on behalf of Victor Boyhan which references the recent sanctioned increase in Board Members within An Bord Pleanala by the Minister Darragh O'Brien. Whilst we await the commencement of new members to the Board, bios will not be available for public viewing on the Board's website. Please note, of the list of new Board members, Mary Henchy and Mick Long are existing interim members of the Board and their bios and picture can be found on our website at this link:

[Meet the Board | An Bord Pleanála (pleanala.ie)](#)

Query Number: OIR24/018   **Date Received:** 4th of September 2024

Query Subject: Planning   **Deputy/Senator:** Victor Boyhan Senator

Acknowledged: 5th of September 2024

Substantive Reply Issued: 6th of September 2024

Language: English

Query:

Can you please provide the number outstanding SHD planning applications which have not yet been decided on, the date each application was submitted, the timeline for the completion of decisions on these applications and the number of housing units for each of these SHD planning application, in tabular format.

Substantive Reply:

Please find attached a list of current on hands strategic housing development (SHD) applications. Note that of the 56 cases currently on hand a small number relate to cases where a previous board decision on the application has been quashed by the High Court following judicial review of the earlier decision and the application returned to the board for a new decision. Processing of these on hand cases was delayed in the context of examination and conclusion by the superior courts in relation to certain legal issues affecting the SHD process. An Bord Pleanála is now progressing examination of these remaining cases with a view to determining them as soon possible but is not in a position to give definitive timelines for any individual case.

Each application in the attached list gives information in respect to the number and type of residential units that are being applied for in the relevant application.

I hope this addresses the query in a satisfactory manner - if any other information is required, please contact the undersigned.

OIR_24_018_Victor Boyhan_SHD_Applications

Query Number: OIR24/019   **Date Received:** 10th of September 2024

Query Subject: Planning   **Deputy/Senator:** Oisin Kavanagh

Acknowledged: 13th of September 2024

Substantive Reply Issued: 23rd of September 2024

Language: English

Query:

I hope this email finds you well. I am a political analyst with Aontu, and we are conducting a detailed study on the role of planning permissions and delays in housing developments across Ireland. Our objective is to understand the impact of planning processes on construction rates and explore potential improvements to support housing initiatives.

Given An Bord Pleanála's central role in overseeing planning applications, including those for large-scale housing developments, we seek your assistance in gathering insights into:

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3. **Current Statistics and Trends in Planning Permissions:**

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   o Data on the volume of planning applications received for housing developments, including

   o breakdowns by region and development type.

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7. **Analysis of Planning Delays:**

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  - o Information on common causes and durations of delays in the planning approval process.

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  - o Examples of cases where delays have notably impacted construction timelines.

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11. **Strategic Initiatives and Improvements:**

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  - o Any recent or upcoming changes in policy or process intended to reduce delays and streamline

  - o the planning approval process.

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The insights provided by An Bord Pleanála will be invaluable in crafting our report, which aims to provide comprehensive recommendations for enhancing housing development efficiency through improved planning processes.

Could you please advise on how we might access the necessary data, or if there are specific reports, datasets, or policy documents available that would assist our research? Additionally, any guidance or recommendations you could offer would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your support and any suggestions you might have for obtaining this crucial information.

Substantive Reply:

An Bord Pleanála has assessed your request for information, and it does not hold the information you are seeking.

Please note that An Bord Pleanála statutory functions do not encompass the breadth of information, analysis or commentary that you are seeking to obtain or collate in relation to these matters.

As a quasi-judicial body tasked solely with making decisions on a certain segment of planning and related applications made An Bord Pleanála has no role in policy formulation as that is a matter for the Minister/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Having regard to the foregoing An Bord Pleanála is not in position to substantively respond to or address your queries.