

Statement from An Bord Pleanála on renewable energy decisions

15th January 2025

As an independent national body An Bord Pleanála acts in an impartial 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. Decisions are made in accordance with our statutory role and Government policy.

The Board decides every application according to the merits of the application and the relevant legal and policy requirements. Each decision and the associated planning file contain all the information on which the decision is made.

Over the last year An Bord Pleanála has been working to substantially clear a backlog of cases and the Board now has a full complement of members to assist in this. There has been a significant number of decisions made in the renewable energy area.

In 2023 and 2024, 69 renewable energy cases (46 wind energy cases and 23 solar farm cases) were decided by An Bord Pleanála.

The breakdown is as follows:

Wind – Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID)

In 2023 and 2024, 16 wind energy SID decisions were made.

11 were granted comprising c. 168 Wind Turbine Generator and approximately 980MW output.

Five were refused and one of these was refused for a single reason relating to local Development Plan policy.

An additional seven amendment decisions were made on existing permissions.

Wind farm planning appeals to An Bord Pleanála

In 2023 and 2024, 30 decisions were made on normal planning appeals relating to wind farm applications.

14 of these were granted permission comprising c. 58 Wind Turbine Generators with approximate output of 280MW. Seven of these had been refused by the local Planning Authority in the first instance.

15 of these were refused, nine of which were refused for multiple reasons while six were refused for a single reason relating to local Development Plan policy.

One split decision was made where one Wind Turbine Generator was granted and two were refused.

An additional three decisions were made on amendments to existing permissions.

Solar - Normal Planning Appeals

23 decisions were made on solar farm appeals

22 were granted permission and one was refused.

Of the 22 granted, five were refused by the local Planning Authority in the first instance.

A further eight decisions were made on amendments/extensions to permitted schemes.

We continue to work through our caseload which includes 16 SID (including remittals from the Courts) and 15 planning appeal windfarms (including remittals and amendments) and ten cases of Solar Farms (including amendments) on hands.