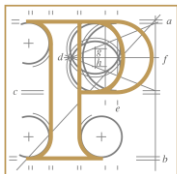


An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

**Provision of information to members of the Oireachtas by An
Coimisiún Pleanála.**

Quarter 2 2025: 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025





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

Quarter 2 2025: 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025

Query Number: OIR/25/007

Date Received: 2nd of April 2025

Query Subject: Planning

Deputy/Senator: Senator Victor Boyhan

Acknowledged: 2nd of April 2025

Substantive Reply Issued: 23rd of April 2025

Language: English

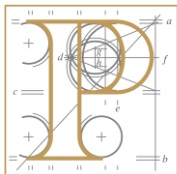
Query:

Can you please forward me the current Strategic Housing Development list.

I always downloaded same on the ABP website, but I understand it has been removed from same.

Substantive Reply:

The SHD list which had been on the Board's website was removed at the end of March 2025 following queries which brought to the attention of the Board that the list had not been updated. A newly revised list will be on the Board's website by the end of this week. However, in the meantime please see the updated list (as of the 17th of April) attached for your information. An additional column, "Decision Status" has been added and will be updated monthly. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



Query Number: OIR/25/008

Date Received: 28th of April 2025

Query Subject: Planning

Deputy/Senator: Deputy James
Geoghegan

Acknowledged: 29th of April 2025

Substantive Reply Issued: 14th of May 2025

Language: English

Query:

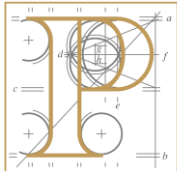
Deputy James Geoghegan asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will identify any projects which the Department has underway with CeADAR, Ireland's national centre for AI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [18380/25]

Deputy James Geoghegan asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to identify specific examples where artificial intelligence has been adapted for the operation of his Department and each body under the aegis of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [12923/25]

Deputy James Geoghegan asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to confirm that for each year between 2020 and 2025 in respect of the boards of bodies under the aegis of his Department, at least one member of the audit and risk committee of that board has recent, relevant financial experience for each of those years; where that is not the case, to identify that body, by reference to the year or years where no such member existed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [12193/25]

Deputy James Geoghegan asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of members of boards in each body under the aegis of his Department who have a professional accounting qualification, for each of the years 2020 to 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [12157/25]

Deputy James Geoghegan asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to identify, by body name and associated skills gap, any skills gaps identified by the chairperson of that board in correspondence to his Department or a Minister in respect of the composition of the board of the body referred, for each year between 2020 and 2025, in tabular form; to identify any body where the chairperson of that board never identified skills gaps to his Department or a Minister, by year and body; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [12175/25]



Substantive Reply:

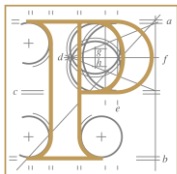
An Bord Pleanála is exploring the use of AI and is therefore working with CeADAR on a potential project. An Bord Pleanála availed of CeADAR's Digital Maturity Assessment & follow-up consultancy service and are currently planning the use case for potentially availing of the AI Solution Design & Build service.

An Bord Pleanála has not adapted artificial intelligence.

Year	Financial Experience	Member
2020	Yes	1
2021	Yes	1
2022	yes	1
2023	yes	1
2024	yes	1
2025	yes	1

The appointment process for members of the Board of An Bord Pleanála is set out in Planning Legislation which changed towards the end of 2022. The focus of the skills set out in this legislation relates to areas of planning which is the primary role of Board members in An Bord Pleanála. The staff of An Bord Pleanála however currently has two qualified accountants. Changes to the overall governing structure of An Bord Pleanála is expected to commence shortly as set out in the Planning and Development Act, 2024 which will see the external appointment of a Governing Board and current Board members becoming Planning Commissioners with no Corporate Governance responsibilities.

As per above, please note that the appointment process of Board members to An Bord Pleanála is set out in the Planning Legislation. The structure is due to change under the Planning and Development Act 2024 with an appointment by the Minister of a separate external governing Board.



Query Number: OIR/25/009

Date Received: 30th of April 2025

Query Subject: Planning

Deputy/Senator: Deputy Erin McGreehan

Acknowledged: 30th of April 2025

Substantive Reply Issued: 20th of May 2025

Language: English

Query:

I was wanting to know if you could provide me with the number of refusals for rural one-off dwelling applications in

Louth, Meath, Cavan, Monaghan that were appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2024, 2023, and 2022; and the

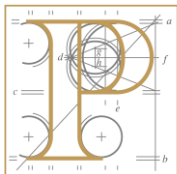
percentage of those appeals that resulted in approvals.

Substantive Reply:

We have analysed your request and have set out the results in the table below. As per your request the focus has been on 'refusals' by the identified planning authority that were then appealed.

One dwelling applications refused by a planning authority that were then validly Appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and then formally decided by An Bord Pleanála .

	2024		2023		2022	
	No of PA Refusals Appealed	ABP Decision	No. of PA Refusals Appealed	ABP formal Decision	No of PA Refusals Appealed	
Louth	1	1 granted	5	3 x Refused 2 x Grant	17	17 refusals
Meath	1	1 refused	8	5 refused 2 grant 1 withdrawn	2	2 refusals
Cavan			2	1 granted 1 refused		
Monaghan			1	1 granted		
Total	2		17		19	



Query Number: OIR/25/010

Date Received: 30th of April 2025

Query Subject: Planning

Deputy/Senator: Deputy Colm Burke

Acknowledged: 1st of May 2025

Substantive Reply Issued: 20th of May 2025

Language: English

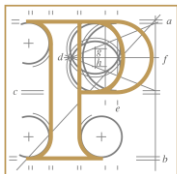
Query:

I would be obliged if you would let me have in tabular form a list of developments which are pending a decision by An Bord Pleanála where the appeal was lodged on or before the 31st May 2024:

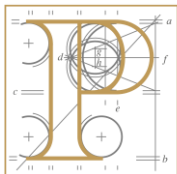
1. The number of appeals where only one singular residential unit is involved.
2. The number of appeals where the number of residential units involved in the one application is between one and 10 residential units.
3. The number of appeals where the number of residential units involved in the one application is between 10 and 25 residential units.
4. The number of appeals where the number of residential units involved in the one application is between 25 and 100 residential units.
5. The number of appeals where the number of residential units involved is in excess of 100.

Substantive Reply:

We have reviewed the information requested. Our case management system captures residential information in a number of different ways, and it is difficult to break it down as per your specific request. However, what is attached should hopefully assist you with your query. The data attached is also broken down by year. In summary the figures are as follows: Total number of residential cases lodged on hand (pending decision) prior to 1st May 2024 is 33. Of which 7 have/had legal issues which prevented a decision being made and 9 of which further information of new notices was required which adds additional time to the decision-making process.



Year lodged	No of residential appeals on hand pending decision	No of Further information Request/Stat Notice	Lega matter raised/stays/remitted
2022	4	0	4
2023	7	3	2
2024	22	8	1



Query Number: OIR/25/011

Date Received: 7th of May 2025

Query Subject: Planning

Deputy/Senator: Deputy Albert Dolan

Acknowledged: 8th of May 2025

Substantive Reply Issued: 29th May 2025

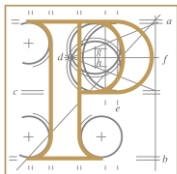
Language: English

Query:

- PQ Ref: 7509/25: which sought data on the final cost of public procurement tenders where the Department or agencies under its aegis acted as the contracting authority in each of the past five years. Specifically, the question requested a tabular breakdown indicating the number of tenders where the final cost was under, on, or over the contract award value at the time of tendering. The Minister's response indicated that the Department does not maintain this information in respect of state bodies under its aegis and advised that these bodies may be contacted directly by members.
- PQ Ref: 7527/25: which sought data on the total amount spent in excess of the contract award value for all public procurement tenders within his Department and agencies under the aegis his Department of in each of the past five years. The Minister's response indicated that the Department does not maintain this information in respect of state bodies under its aegis and advised that these bodies may be contacted directly by members.
- PQ Ref: 13544/25: which sought data on the total expenditure on public procurement by his Department and its agencies, including spending on goods, services and works acquired through public procurement processes, in each of the past five years, in tabular form. The Minister's response indicated that the Department does not maintain this information in respect of state bodies under its aegis, and advised that these bodies may be contacted directly by

Substantive Reply:

Apologies on the delay in responding to your query. Please find the substantive response to your query outlined below.



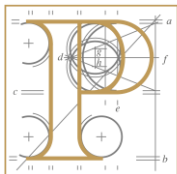
Year Contract Entered	Final Cost of Public Procurement (excl. VAT)	Number of Tenders where final cost was under the contract value	Number of Tenders where final cost on the contract award value	Number of Tenders where final cost over the contract award value	Total number of tenders per year
2020	€1,614,924	5	2	3	10
2021	€1,310,679	4	0	4	8
2022	€2,057,756	5	4	3	12
2023	€3,592,739	7	5	3	15
2024	€507,770	6	1	3	10
Total	€9,083,868	27	12	16	55

Please note the above stats relate to Public Procurement processes and contracts signed in the year mentioned, and the spends relate to the totality of the contracts (exclusive of VAT) agreed from these processes.

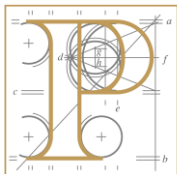
The spend for 2024 is reflective of this, so that figure may increase over lifetime of contracts.

Public Procurements processes relating to legal services are not included in the above figures due to the nature of the drawdown of their services and valuation of contracts.

Please see costs below relating to public procurement processes for Legal Services in the period 2020-2024



Year Contract Entered	Final Cost of Public Procurement	Total number of tenders per year
2020	N/A	0
2021	€655,489	2
2022	€1,999,290	0
2023	€1,872,688	2
2024	€2,280,181	0
Total	€6,807,648.19	4



Query Number: OIR/25/012

Date Received: 21st of May 2025

Query Subject: Organisational

Deputy/Senator: Deputy Pa Daly

Acknowledged: 21st of May 2025

Substantive Reply Issued: 9th June 2025

Language: English

Query:

the full year cost to employ one FTE per staffing level;

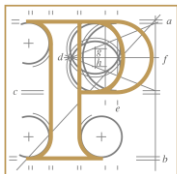
the number of staff with environmental planning expertise employed in An Bord Pleanála and the full year cost to employ per FTE;

the number of staff with biodiversity expertise employed in An Bord Pleanála and the full year cost to employ per FTE;

and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Substantive Reply:

Please see the Board staffing numbers and costings pasted below.



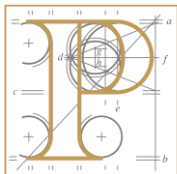
Grade	No. at grade	Cost per annum
Chief Officer	1	€116,619
Director of Planning	2	€113,827
Director Posts	3	€104,186
Assistant Director of Planning	8	€106,108
Senior Planning Inspector	60	€91,769
Environmental/Marine Scientist	1	€91,769
Ecologist	5	€91,769
Planning Inspector	34	€78,300
Senior Administrative Officer	13	€87,656
Senior Executive Officer	24	€62,775
Executive Officer	69	€46,683
Administrative Assistant	53	€37,614

The full complement of the Planning Inspectorate has recognised Planning qualifications (by either the IPI or RTPi or equivalent) to work in the Board and have a minimum of 5 years' experience. Their qualifications include modules on environmental topics including EIA and AA.

Additional qualifications in environmental areas have been achieved by planning inspectors x22.

The Board has six staff (Environmental team) whose primary role is in an area of the environment – Ecology and Environmental Scientists

The Environmental team x6 have biodiversity within their qualifications, planning inspectors x4 also have botany qualifications which includes biodiversity.



Query Number: OIR/25/013

Date Received: 30th of May 2025

Query Subject: Planning

Deputy/Senator: Deputy Colm Burke

Acknowledged: 1st of May 2025

Substantive Reply Issued: 5th of June 2025

Language: English

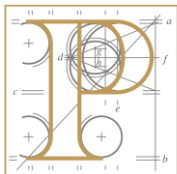
Query:

As you will note, my email was sent to you on the 1st of May 2025. I understand that a number of An Bord Pleanála decisions were issued between the 30th of April 2025 and the 21st of May 2025, where the appeals had been lodged with you on or before the 1st of May 2024.

I would be obliged therefore if you would let me have a list of those planning permissions that were granted between the 30th of April 2025 and the 21st of May 2025.

Substantive Reply:

Please find attached normal planning appeals granted between the 30th of April 2025 and the 21st of May 2025 where the appeals had been lodged with ABP on or before the 1st of May 2024.



Query Number: OIR/25/014

Date Received: 14th of June 2025

Query Subject: Planning

Deputy/Senator: Senator Victor Boyhan

Acknowledged:

Substantive Reply Issued: 17th of July 2025

Language: English

Query:

Request for Information: Plean-IT project

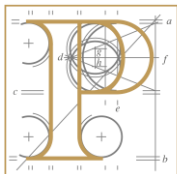
Can you please provide a progress report on the full rolled-out of your promised comprehensive online interactive service and Plean-IT project?

Substantive Reply:

As you are aware from previous correspondence there is currently a facility on our website to receive observations/submissions together with the appropriate fee in relation to all cases received by the Commission.

Expanding on this service, the facility to allow online appeals together with a fee is now at an advanced stage with an expectation of a 'live pilot' towards the end of September 2025. In February 2024 we appointed a Director of Transformation and Digital Services and this has facilitated the progress in relation to this together with other initiatives in terms of facilitating increased access to more information on line in relation to documentation. We have been working with the Office of the Government Chief Information Office (OGCIO) to leverage the government's shared services' IT platform to develop the 'on-line' platform for appeals.

As previously indicated there are currently challenges with the legislation in terms of receipt of 'electronic appeals' however we have been separately working with the Department of Housing, to develop a statutory Instrument to legally facilitate the receipt of on line appeals. This is also at an advanced stage in terms of finalising the necessary wording of the instrument.



Query Number: OIR/25/015

Date Received: 20th of June 2025

Query Subject: Planning

Deputy/Senator: Deputy Grace Boland

Acknowledged:

Substantive Reply Issued: PENDING

Language: English

Query:

Following on from a Parliamentary Question which I raised with the Minister for Housing, I have been asked to contact An Bord Pleanála for direct reply.

I would appreciate if you could provide updates on the following:

1. How many staff were employed by An Bord Pleanála for the years 2020,2021, 2022, 2023,2024 as of December in each year - could this be provided in tabular form please
2. How many decisions made by An Bord Pleanála were overturned after judicial review;
3. What are the number of cases where An Bord Pleanála agreed with the court to overturn or amend a decision in 2023 and 2024;
4. How much was spent on legal fees in 2022,2023 and 2024
5. What is the budget for legal costs for the years 2025 and 2026
6. What is the annual budget for An Bord Pleanála
7. What are the annual payroll costs for An Bord Pleanála
8. What are the total number of applications awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanála for 6,12,18,24,30,36 and 36+ months - could this be provided in tabular form please
9. What is the number of planning appeal cases awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanála as of 1st May 2025; the numbers of homes included included in those cases, how many involve single homes, how many involve multiple homes.

Substantive Reply:

PENDING