

Eolas a sheoladh chuig baill den Oireachtas ón mBord Pleanála / Provision of information to members of the Oireachtas by An Bord Pleanála

Ráithe 2 2023: 1 Aibreán 2023 go 30 Meitheamh 2023 / Quarter 2 2023: 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023

Uimhir na ceiste Query Number	Dáta faighte Date Received	Dáta admhála Acknowledged	Teachta Dála / Seanadóir Deputy / Senator	An t-ábhar a bhí i gceist Query Subject	Ceist Query	Freagra substainteach eisithe Substantive Reply Issued	Freagra substainteach Substantive Reply	Teanga Language	Ráithe Quarter	Bliain Year
OIR/23/005	22/05/2023	24/05/2023	Eoin Ó Broin TD	Staffing Levels / HR	<p>To provide the following information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of staff currently employed at APB (Full Time Equivalents) including a breakdown of grades,</li> <li>The total cost per year of these staff.</li> </ul> <p>To also detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total number of additional staff sought by ABP since the start of 2020,</li> <li>The number of posts approved,</li> <li>The number recruited to date,</li> <li>An estimated cost for the</li> </ul>	14/06/2023	<p>Please see attached details in relation to your request.</p> <p><a href="https://www.pleanala.ie/admin/getmedia/bb4b2f6b-f95c-4453-9c34-d8ac713a4a4b/EOB-Oireachtas-Query-OIR_23_005.pdf">https://www.pleanala.ie/admin/getmedia/bb4b2f6b-f95c-4453-9c34-d8ac713a4a4b/EOB-Oireachtas-Query-OIR_23_005.pdf</a></p>	EN	2	2023

					total requested.  To also confirm whether additional staff have been requested by ABP since the appointment of the interim chair and to provide the detail of any such request.					
OIR/23/006	23/05/2023	26/05/2023	Neasa Hourigan TD	SID/LAP Case (Live)	If delays at An Bord Pleanála may affect projects under the Cork area commuter rail programme in meeting deadlines for European and other funding opportunities.	31/05/2023	<p>The Board is currently processing an application for a railway order in relation to the proposed Railway (Glounthaune to Midleton Twin Track) at Glounthaune to Midleton, Co. Cork (case reference ABP-315087-22).</p> <p>The Board had issued letters to the parties in this case on the 17th of May 2023 stating that it now intends to determine the application before 9th August 2023.</p> <p>The Board had also issued letters to the parties of this case on the 18th of May 2023 advising that an oral hearing in relation to the case is to take place from Monday the 26th of June to Wednesday the 28th of June 2023.</p> <p>Once the above oral hearing has been considered and the inspector has completed a report, the case will go to the Board for its consideration and decision.</p> <p>Please note that An Bord Pleanála has no jurisdiction in respect of matters relating to</p>	EN	2	2023

							European or other funding for projects and, in that context, cannot make any comment on these issues.			
OIR/23/007	24/05/2023	29/05/2023	Senator Rónán Mullen	Appeal Case (Live); SID/LAP Case (Live); Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the number and percentage of cases before An Bord Pleanála that are currently taking more than the statutory 18 weeks to determine?</li> <li>• How many are over 52 weeks to determine?</li> <li>• When is it expected to clear the backlog?</li> </ul>	15/06/2023	<p>Please note the following information is as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2023.</p> <p>At the end of April there were 3,585 cases on hands. Of these, 1,445 (40%) were within the relevant statutory objective time period for the making of a decision (which is generally 18 weeks), and 2,140 (60%) were outside of the relevant statutory objective period.</p> <p>As a consequence of the statutory time period not being 18 weeks for all categorises of cases, the equivalent figures for on hands cases within and outside 18 weeks at the end of April were 1,361 cases within 18 weeks and 2,224 cases over 18 weeks.</p> <p>Of the 3,585 on hands, 780 have been on hands for greater than 52 weeks.</p> <p>It should be noted that there has been a significant turnover of personnel at board level in the organisation over recent months which has resulted in severely restrained capacity at board level and a consequent backlog of cases for determination.</p> <p>The replacement of board members and recruitment of additional overall staff resources is progressing and will provide the necessary capacity to</p>	EN	2	2023

							address current delays in determining cases.			
OIR/23/008	12/06/2023	14/06/2023	Neasa Hourigan TD	Administration	<p>Deferred Parliamentary Question: To ask the Minister for Housing; Local Government and Heritage the awards made both with and without a tender process to management consultancy firms (details supplied) by his Department and aegis bodies for each of the years 2018 to 2022 inclusive, in tabular form and classed by firm; the purpose and a brief description of the awards; the value of the awards and the total amounts paid; the timeline or timeframe of the contracts; and the desired or completed output.</p> <p><a href="https://www.pleanala.ie/admin/getmedia/1dfc3b67-1b82-4dc3-85ca-7dc95929a37c/Deferred-PQ-10116-Answer-OIR_23_008.pdf">https://www.pleanala.ie/admin/getmedia/1dfc3b67-1b82-4dc3-85ca-7dc95929a37c/Deferred-PQ-10116-Answer-OIR_23_008.pdf</a></p>	10/07/2023	<p>In relation to your attached document entitled "Deferred PQ 10116 Answer" please note the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accenture Nil expenditure 2018-2023.</li> <li>Ernst &amp; Young Nil expenditure 2018-2023.</li> <li>KPMG Nil expenditure 2018-2023.</li> <li>McKinsey Nil expenditure 2018-2023.</li> </ul> <p>There was expenditure for PWC – ICT Consultancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PWC 2018: €333,858.11 costs including VAT.</li> <li>PWC 2019: €12,859.65 costs including VAT.</li> </ul>	EN	2	2023
OIR/23/009	16/06/2023	20/06/2023	Darren O'Rourke TD	Administration	<p>Could you please provide me with the total spend on consulting services and on business-as usual outsourcing at An Bord Pleanála as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 broken down by contract and</p>	06/07/2023	<p>Please see the attached Excel document entitled "Review of Consultancy costs 2022 and 2023 - OIR_23_009"</p> <p>Please note that these are provisional, working figures to date.</p> <p><a href="https://www.pleanala.ie/admin/getmedia/93923765-3146-4b3c-b67b-5e07acbc20fd/Review-of-">https://www.pleanala.ie/admin/getmedia/93923765-3146-4b3c-b67b-5e07acbc20fd/Review-of-</a></p>	EN	2	2023

					purpose of contract in 2022 and in 2023 to date, in tabular form?		<a href="#">Consultancy-costs-2022-and-2023-OIR_23_009.xlsx</a>			
OIR/23/010	16/06/2023	20/06/2023	Rose Conway Walsh TD	Administration	Deferred PQ: To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total spend on consulting services and on 'business-as-usual' outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of 'Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016' for each non-commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for the year 2022.	06/06/2023	<p>Please see attached the Excel document entitled "Review of Consultancy costs 2022 - OIR_23_010"</p> <p>Please note that the An Bord Pleanála accounts for 2022 are still in an external audit process.</p> <p><a href="https://www.pleanala.ie/admin/getmedia/7264db92-596d-4aab-8060-960a999fa1d5/Review-of-Consultancy-costs-2022-OIR_23_010.xlsx">https://www.pleanala.ie/admin/getmedia/7264db92-596d-4aab-8060-960a999fa1d5/Review-of-Consultancy-costs-2022-OIR_23_010.xlsx</a></p>	EN	2	2023
OIR/23/011	19/06/2023	21/06/2023	Alan Farrell TD	Appeal Case (Live)	<p>To enquire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What the current processing time is for standard applications (appeals) made to An Bord Pleanála?</li> <li>• Is this processing time outside the usual processing times for An Bord Pleanála?</li> <li>• What mechanisms are being put in place to minimise delays?</li> </ul>	14/07/2023	<p>Please see the following table in relation to the information requested.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to table</a></p> <p>The statutory objective period (SOP) is generally 18 weeks depending on the type of case. (The SOP for all normal planning appeals is 18 weeks).</p> <p>There has been a significant turnover of personnel at Board level in the organisation over recent months. This has resulted in restricted capacity at Board level and a consequent backlog of cases for determination.</p> <p>Fifteen Board members have now been appointed and recruitment of additional resources is progressing. This will provide the necessary capacity to address current</p>	EN	2	2023

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How long are larger scale infrastructure projects taking to be dealt with by An Bord Pleanála?</li> <li>• How many of these large-scale projects are currently before the Board?</li> <li>• Are measure being taken with these applications to ensure that they are processed as quickly as possible?</li> </ul>		<p>delays in determining cases over time.</p> <p>There are different types of cases before the Board for determination. The Board will be applying different prioritisation to those cases and will therefore not deal with cases in chronological order. The Board has decided that this is the best way to manage its backlog in the most effective way possible.</p>			
OIR/23/012	22/06/2023	26/06/2023	Paul Kehoe TD	Legal Cases	<p>To enquire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The names of solicitors and their firms who have received payments from An Bord Pleanála and have lost Judicial Review cases to;</li> <li>• The amount of monies paid to those solicitors and their firms in those cases for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in</li> </ul>	18/07/2023	<p>The payments in each year for payment of other side legal costs in judicial review cases where the relevant court awarded other side costs against the board (usually where the Board either conceded the legal challenge or its planning decision was found to be legally unsound as per a court judgment) could be released as global figures for each year with the number of cases involved also given (a table prepared by Finance giving these figures in that format is now attached). I consider that the release of individual case payment details would be both contrary to the public interest and also disclose positions taken or to be taken by the Board for the purpose of negotiation of settlement of such</p>	EN	2	2023

					2023, in tabular form.		claims for legal costs in the past and future. Such release would therefore in my opinion potentially prejudice the board's ability to conclude such future negotiations in a manner that seeks to limit the amount of financial exposure and could therefore compromise the Board's ability for the prudent management of public funds.  The names of the solicitor firms involved could be given as a global list, but I would not relate figures of payments to each firm for the reasons set out above.			
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