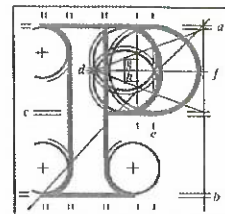


**Our Case Number:** ABP-314724-22

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Lesley Hewson  
6 Prospect Square  
Glasnevin  
Dublin 9  
D09 W0F2

**Date:** 06 December 2022

**Re:** Railway (Metrolink - Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order [2022]  
Metrolink. Estuary through Swords, Dublin Airport, Ballymun, Glasnevin and City Centre to  
Charlemont, Co. Dublin

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission (including your fee of €50) in relation to the above-mentioned proposed Railway Order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions/observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant County Council(s) and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737247

<b>Tel</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaao Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1890 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Ríomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902



24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

6 Prospect Square,  
Glasnevin,  
Dublin 9,  
D09 W0F2.

**Observation relating to An Bord Pleanála Case Reference Number: NA29N.314724 -**  
Railway (Metrolink - Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order [2022], as it  
relates to my home at 6 Prospect Square.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As I have spent quite a bit of time writing observations regarding Bus Connects and Metrolink on behalf of Prospect ACA, I will not labour the few points that I would like to make on a personal basis regarding the Metrolink project.

I bought my house in 2014 and it provides a home for me and 3 other people, a primary school teacher, a college lecturer and a tech company employee under the rent a room scheme, so I consider that this house serves a useful purpose. It was in poor condition when I bought it and I am gradually replacing the original features of the house, as money allows.

The house is quite old, it was built in 1905/6 and stands on very shallow foundations on boulder clay as we have been informed by the IEE. There are underground waterways known as the Cemetery Drain to both the front and back of the houses here. As I have no idea what the effect of drilling is likely to have on the ground on which the ACA is built I will have to look hard at whether I carry out any other work on the house for the foreseeable future. While the IEE has been helpful in explaining the different phases of assessing houses for potential damage, I don't know if my house will be included in a meaningful way in these assessments. If it is not included, and damage does ensue – and we should remember that far more robust houses in Marino were damaged by tunneling there – then I possibly face many years of trying to get the State to acknowledge that responsibility, similar to residents in Marino. Given that I am 61 now I might be an elderly woman while still trying to deal with this. Such legal matters could potentially last a very long time into my old age

I write the above points because I would like to try and explain how easily and profoundly the State can impact peoples' lives. I am aware that damage occurs to properties throughout the world during drilling and that a certain amount of 'collateral damage' is inevitable. We can't make omelets without breaking eggs of course. Nevertheless, given that the State has already spent in the region of €88m on this project and many billions more should it go ahead, then I am left wondering why it is the people who are going to live with the mess and the inconvenience and indeed the worry who are also expected to fully accept all risks to their property arising from the construction of a piece of infrastructure that is to benefit the entire nation. Given the scale of the spending on this project I suppose I am trying to figure out why it is the people who live, or own businesses close to the alignment, not directly above it, are the ones required to bear such a significant risk and why they, of all the myriad groups

involved in a mega-project should be seen as an unnecessary cost while huge amounts of money are made available for its every other aspect!

I therefore ask that ABP give full consideration to the provision of a very thorough risk assessment process for vulnerable properties, not just as is currently provided in the obvious place above the alignment and the zone of inclusion, but also for those further away from the line but who are realistically at risk also due to the type of ground and the age and structure of the property they own. I also ask for enhanced monitoring of the drilling process when that occurs in vulnerable areas to allow corrections to be made that minimise damage and disturbance of the ground. Finally I ask for continued and prolonged monitoring of ground settlement after drilling has taken place so that problems can be addressed in a timely manner.

Yours faithfully.

Lesley Hewson