

File With _____

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal NO: ACP - 323676-25Defer Re O/H ☐Having considered the contents of the submission dated/ received 30/7/26

from

LEAMONAGHAN GRAVEYARD
& HERITAGE SITE
GROUP

I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000

~~be~~/not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s): no new planning informationE.O.: Catherine FlynnDate: 5/8/26

For further consideration by SEO/SAO

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage. ☐Section 131 to be invoked – allow 2/4 weeks for reply. ☐

S.E.O.: _____

Date: _____

S.A.O.: _____

Date: _____

M _____

Please prepare BP _____ - Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached submission

to: _____ Task No: _____

Allow 2/3/4weeks – BP _____

EO: _____

Date: _____

AA: _____

Date: _____

File With _____

CORRESPONDENCE FORM

Appeal No: ACP -323676-25M 1. Burke

Please treat correspondence received on _____ as follows:

1. Update database with new agent for Applicant/Appellant _____

2. Acknowledge with SC203. Keep copy of Commission's Letter ☐

1. RETURN TO SENDER with BP _____

2. Keep Envelope: ☐3. Keep Copy of Commission's letter ☐

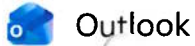
Amendments/Comments

LEAMONAGHAN GRAVEYARD & HERITAGE SITE GROUP
 RESPONSE TO SC131

4. Attach to file

(a) R/S ☐ (d) Screening ☐(b) GIS Processing ☐ (e) Inspectorate ☐(c) Processing ☐RETURN TO EO ☐

	Plans Date Stamped ☐
	Date Stamped Filled in ☐
EO: <u>[Signature]</u>	AA: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>31/7/26</u>	Date: <u>4/8/2020</u>



Case Number - ACP - 323676-25

From Dora Corcoran <leamonaghgraveyard@gmail.com>

Date Thu 30 Jul 2026 11:29 AM

To Appeals2 <appeals@pleanala.ie>

 1 attachment (22 KB)

Leamonaghan Graveyard - Observation July 2026.docx;

You don't often get email from leamonaghgraveyard@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Deborah Corcoran of Leamonaghan, Ballycumber, Co. Offaly R35K263

I am Secretary of Leamonaghan Graveyard & Heritage Site Group.

Attached please find an observation in relation to the above case.

I sincerely hope that you will give due consideration to the points made in the attached document.

Yours faithfully,

Deborah Corcoran
086 8313481

Case Number: ACP-323676-25

Re: Substitute Consent under the provisions of Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for peat extraction and ancillary works.

Dear Sir/Madam,

In accordance with section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), I wish to make an observation on the observations received and the submissions from the Health Service Executive and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

In relation to the submission from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)

<https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/Case%20Documentation/323676/Submissions/323676%20-%20Response%20from%20TII%20to%20S131.pdf?r=541601731515>, we have concerns over the legitimacy of the access and use of the access point to the N62 by the applicants. The TII document says; *“the Commission should be aware that official policy concerning access to national roads seeks to avoid the creation of additional access points from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses (i.e. non-public road access) to national roads, to which speed limits greater than 50 kph apply”*. Bórd na Móna should not have had an access point to the N62 without proper consent. They used this access point which directly contradicts the official policy concern national roads.

In relation to the submission from the Health Service Executive (HSE)

<https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/Case%20Documentation/323676/Submissions/323676%20-%20HSE%20Response%20to%20S131%2019.02.26.pdf?r=253434102462>, we have many concerns:

Firstly, the HSE document states; *“The NEHS has no record of any complaints or public health concerns regarding the operation of the site prior to stopping extraction in 2020 or any operations post 2020 to date.”* The responsibility to complain and fix public health concerns should not fall on the shoulders of individual citizens. Placing the onus on individuals creates an unfair barrier to accountability. Many local people were extremely unhappy about the level of dust in the air when peat was being milled, especially those living within 2km – 3km of the bog, however we did not know that we could lodge a complaint about it.

Secondly, there is no dust, water quality or noxious gas emission data prior to 2000. This is deeply troubling. This is totally unacceptable for a Semi State Body. Also, since 2000 there has not been annual dust monitoring at the site. How can this have been allowed?

How could a semi state body have been allowed to operate a commercial enterprise without having any “checks and balances” by their Government Department. When peat was being milled at the site, the local people had to close the windows of their house, could not hang out washing, their cars would be covered in dust which they could have to clean every night and they were also subjected to having to breathe this air. The peat was being milled in the summertime, so local people could not enjoy the summertime outside.

Additionally, the HSE document notes that; *"the closest monitoring location to the Application Site is Pollagh, located approximately 4.3km southeast of the Application Site,"*. The prevailing winds in Leamonaghan normally blow from the west and south west, and head towards the East/North East which means that most of the dust would not have blown towards the monitoring location in Pollagh. This monitoring location would not be applicable to the dust levels in Leamonaghan. The HSE document notes that there have been three third-party complaints to excessive dust in Pollagh, which exemplifies how intense the levels of dust were in Leamonaghan, as most of the dust would not have blown towards Pollagh.

The HSE document notes that impacts on water quality from sediment, hydrocarbons and wastewater were assessed as having moderate potential impact. Many local people had cattle, horses and sheep drinking water from the brook that drains the bog. This brook flows into the River Brosna which is a tributary of the River Shannon. The water was deemed to have 'moderate' potential impacts but local people were never made aware of this and there was no solution. There should not have been any impacts on the water quality as the brook was the only source of fresh water for animals in the area to drink, and the animals drank the water from the brook long before Bord na Mona started operations in the bog. A semi state body such as Bord na Mona should not have allowed the fresh water in the brook to be polluted.

Also, the HSE document comments on dust emissions during the Peat Extraction Phase, with the Study area being deemed of medium sensitivity, and highlights that there was a medium risk of dust soiling impacts. The document notes that nearby receptors indicated that dust emissions from site works were elevated on occasion. To have elevated dust emissions to an area of medium sensitivity is totally unacceptable and should not have happened.

Finally, the HSE document states that the lived experiences should be considered and given due weight during the decision-making process. Below is a summary of the lived experiences in Leamonaghan during the time the applicant was using the site:

- No lines of washing could be hung out during the summer months while peat was being milled.
- Cars were covered in dust and had to be washed every evening/night as there was little or no visibility through the windscreen/windows from the dust from the peat.
- Windows in the houses had to be closed during hot summer days as there would be dust from the peat all over the inside of the house. This was very uncomfortable for people. The lives of the local people were dictated by Bord na Mona and people had to adjust their normal daily routine on the days that peat was being milled.
- People had no option but to inhale polluted air when peat was being milled.

I am extremely disappointed to learn that an organisation as big as Bord na Mona, would have carried out this work without the appropriate permission.

I am strongly opposed to the granting of Substitute Consent in this case.

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