

# Office of the Planning Regulator Activity Report

Quarter 2 of 2025



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# Introduction

This is the twenty-first of a series of quarterly activity reports (QARs) that the Office of the Planning Regulator (the OPR) publishes as an overview of the nature and extent of its functions across its statutory mandate.

#### These are:

- I. Evaluation of the statutory plans of the local government system;
- II. Reviews and examinations of local authority systems and procedures used in the delivery of planning services to the public; and
- III. Undertaking programmes relating to training, education, research and public awareness in relation to the benefits of planning.

# **Evaluation of Statutory Plans**

The OPR is responsible for independently assessing city/county development plans (CDPs) and local area plans (LAPs) at three key stages: issues paper, draft plan and material alterations. The OPR also considers any proposed variations to existing CDPs or amendments to LAPs. OPR submissions may include recommendations, observations or advice.

In Q2 2025, ten consultations on statutory plans opened for public consultation. These consultations related to:

- Six draft variations to existing CDPs.
- One material alteration to a variation to existing CDPs.
- One issues paper to an LAP.
- Two material alterations to draft LAPs.

# **OPR Submissions on Statutory Plans**

In Q2 2025, the OPR made 11 submissions to local authorities. Table 1 below sets out a breakdown by plan-type. In Q2 the majority of submissions related to variations to existing CDPs at draft stage.

Submissions on Statutory Plans	
Material Alterations to CDPs:	1
<ul> <li>Variations to CDPs:</li> <li>Variation No.2 to the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028</li> <li>Variation No.4 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028</li> <li>Variation No.4 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027</li> <li>Variation No.5 to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027</li> </ul>	4
<ul> <li>Material Alterations to Variations to CDPs:</li> <li>Variation No.3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028</li> </ul>	1
Issues Papers for LAPs:  • Rathmichael Local Area Plan 2025	1
Old Connaught Local Area Plan 2025-2031	1
<ul> <li>Material Alterations to LAPs:</li> <li>Blessington Local Area Plan 2025-2031</li> <li>Portarlington Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031</li> <li>Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031</li> </ul>	3
Total:	11

Table 1 | Submissions on Statutory Plans

#### **OPR Submissions by Regional Area**

Local authorities are divided into three regional areas, represented by three regional assemblies:

- The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA);
- The Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA); and
- The Southern Regional Assembly (SRA).

OPR submissions during Q2 2025 related to all regional assembly areas. Figure 1 below shows the number of submissions made on consultations within each regional assembly area.

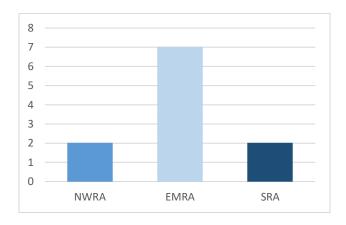


Figure 1 | OPR Submissions by Regional Assembly Area

#### **OPR Recommendations and Observations**

The OPR may make recommendations or observations in its submissions at the draft and/or material alterations stage. Due to the high-level nature of issues papers, the OPR does not make observations or recommendations at this stage.

Recommendations issued by the OPR relate to clear breaches of relevant legislative provisions; the national or regional policy framework; and Government policy, as set out in the Ministerial Guidelines under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act). The local authority is required to implement or address recommendation(s) made by the OPR.

Observations take the form of a request for further information, justification on a particular matter, or clarification regarding particular provisions of a plan on issues that are required to ensure alignment with policy and legislative provisions. The OPR requests that local authorities action an observation.

Table 2 below sets out the number of observations and recommendations made by the OPR in Q2 2025.1

Recommendations and Observations Made by the OPR			
	Submissions (number):	Recommendations (number):	Observations (number):
Material Alterations to CDPs	1	3	0
Draft Variations to CDPs	4	7	4
Material Alterations Variations to CDPs	1	1	0
Draft LAPs	1	0	3
Material Alterations to Draft LAPs	3	5	1
Total:	10	16	8

Table 2 | Recommendations and Observations made by the OPR

#### **OPR Recommendations and Observations: Legislative Categories**

The evaluation and assessment of plans considers the following legislative and policy matters:

- Consistency with the National Planning Framework (NPF);
- Consistency with the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES);
- Consistency with the relevant Development Plan (DP);
- Relevant guidelines for planning authorities made under Section 28 of Act, including consistency with specific planning policy requirements (SPPR) specified in those guidelines;
- Consistency with the National Transport Authority (NTA) Transport Strategy (TS) (if in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA));
- Consistency with the legislative provisions for statutory plans as provided for under the Act; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As the OPR does not issue recommendations or observations at issues paper stage these figures do not relate to submissions made at issues paper stage.

Consistency with legislative provisions in relation to Climate Action.

A breakdown of the recommendations and observations made in Q2 by legislative category is contained in Tables 3 and 4 below. As recommendations can cover more than one legislative provision, the numbers presented in these tables (Table 3 and 4) differ from the total number of recommendations listed above in Table 2 above.

OPR Recommendations	Number
Consistency with NPF	8
Consistency with RSES	13
Consistency with DP	8
Consistency with NTA TS for GDA	0
Policy Matters re Section 28 Guidelines	10
Consistency with Legislative Provisions	0
Consistency with Legislative Provisions re	0
Climate Change	
Other	1
Total:	40

Table 3 | OPR Recommendations

OPR Observations	Number
Consistency with NPF	2
Consistency with RSES	5
Consistency with DP	5
Consistency with NTA TS for GDA	0
Policy Matters re Section 28 Guidelines	4
Consistency with Legislative Provisions	0
Consistency with Legislative Provisions re	1
Climate Change	
Other	0
Total:	17

Table 4 | OPR Observations

#### Adopted Plans: Outcome of OPR Submissions

Once a plan has been adopted, the OPR has four weeks to assess the plan as adopted and determine whether the plan aligns with national and regional policy and has satisfactorily addressed the recommendations made by the OPR. A total of ten plans were adopted in Q2 2025.

Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 was adopted by the planning authority in Q2 2025. The Office made 18 recommendations in total at the draft and material alterations stage of this plan. The recommendations of the Office were not satisfactorily addressed for the plan, this is explored further in the below section.

In addition, two variations to existing CDPs were made in Q2 2025. Of these, the OPR completed its assessment of one: Variation No. 2 to Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028. The Office made 11 recommendations to the proposed variation at the draft and material alterations stage. The recommendations of the Office were not satisfactorily addressed for the Variation, this is explored further in the below section. The OPR's assessment of Variation No. 3 to Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was ongoing at the end of Q2 2025.

Seven LAPs were adopted by planning authorities in Q2 2025. Of these, the OPR completed its assessment of five:

- Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031;
- Longford Local Area Plan 2025-2031;
- Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031;
- Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025-2031; and
- Kilternan-Glenamuck Local Area Plan 2025.

The Office made 39 recommendations in total at the draft and material alterations stage of these LAPs. The recommendations were satisfactorily addressed for the plans for Carrick-on-Shannon, Longford and Carrick-on-Suir, and the OPR did not make any recommendations on the Kilternan-Glenamuck plan. The recommendations of the Office were not satisfactorily addressed for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025-2031, this is explored further in the below section.

The OPR's assessment of Blessington Local Area Plan 2025-2031 and Portarlington Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was ongoing at the end of Q2.

Also, in Q2 2025 the OPR completed its assessment of two variations and one LAP which were adopted in Q1 2025:

- Variation No. 1 (Kilcullen Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:
- Variation No. 4 to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021; and
- Dundalk Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

The recommendations were satisfactorily addresses with no further action required.

#### **Draft Directions**

Further to Section 31AM of the Act, where the OPR is of the opinion that a plan has been made in a way that is not consistent with any recommendations made by the OPR and that the plan has been made in a manner which fails to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned, the OPR may deem that it is merited for the Minister to issue a Direction.

The OPR issued recommendations to the Minister of a draft Direction on the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031, Variation No. 2 to Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP 2025-2031 in Q2 2025. The Minister issued a draft Direction on these plans, however, the direction process remains ongoing.

Table 5 provides a breakdown of the number of recommendations which were or were not satisfactorily addressed

Plan	Local Authority	Adoption Date	Number of Recommendations Made
Monaghan County Development Plan 2025- 2031	Monaghan County Council	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	18
Variation No. 2 to Wicklow Count Development Plan 2022-2028	Wicklow County Council	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	11
Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP 2025-2031	Wicklow County Council	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	12

Table 5 | Adopted Plans – Outcome of OPR Submissions: Recommendations not all satisfactorily addressed

#### **Final Directions**

The OPR did not make a recommendation to the Minister of a final Direction in Q2.

Note: The OPR's submissions and recommendations to the Minister can be found on the OPR's website. Please note that final Directions are only published once the Direction process has been complete.

# Stakeholder Engagement

#### **Engagement with Local Authorities**

During Q2 2025, the OPR continued to engage with local authorities, meeting with:

- Carlow County Council
- Cork City Council
- Galway City Council
- **Galway County Council**
- Kildare County Council
- Kilkenny County Council
- Laois County Council
- Monaghan County Council
- Offaly County Council
- South Dublin County Council
- Tipperary County Council
- Wicklow County Council

This engagement allows the OPR to answer queries or discuss key matters regarding proposed plans, and to provide additional information, such as policy updates, which may support the work of the local authority during the plan-making process.

#### **Plans Evaluation Forum**

The OPR hosted one meeting of the Plans Evaluation Forum, in April 2025, which enabled discussions between all organisations on statutory plans subject to public consultation over that period.

# **Reviews and Examinations**

## **Local Authority Reviews Programme**

Through its statutory reviews programme, the OPR fulfils an important oversight and monitoring role in relation to the systems and procedures used by local authorities in the performance of their statutory planning functions.

#### **Review of Galway County Council**

The OPR continued its review of Galway County Council liaising with the planning department to gather information in relation to the systems and procedures in place to deliver planning functions. An intensive schedule of workshop meetings also took place during Q2 at the Council's offices in Galway City. As part of these workshops, the OPR engaged with senior management and staff from the planning department to discuss various aspects of the Council's planning operations.

#### **Longford County Council**

As above, the OPR also continued its review of Longford County Council with the same schedule of information gathering and workshops taking place.

#### **Local Authority Monitoring**

The OPR continues to engage with previously reviewed local authorities in relation to the implementation of OPR recommendations. To that end, in Q2, the Office engaged with the following local authorities in relation to:

County Council	Timeline
South Dublin County Council	6-month progress update
Meath County Council	6-month progress update
Offaly County Council	12-month progress update
Waterford City and County Council	12-month progress update

Table 6 | Local Authority Monitoring

# **Examinations (Case Handling)**

#### **Case Activity**

The OPR provides a service to the public in relation to a variety of planning-related case types including queries or general information requests, submissions on aspects of the operation of the planning process, and complaints about the delivery of planning services.

During Q2, a total of 54 cases were received and 55 cases were closed by the OPR, detailed by month in Figure 2 below.

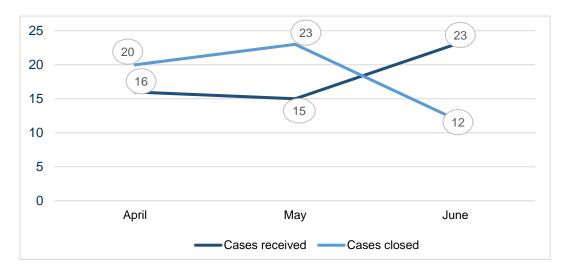


Figure 2 | Cases Received vs. Cases Closed Q2, 2025

The 55 cases closed in Q2 are as follows:

- 30 complaints
- 22 queries
- 3 submissions

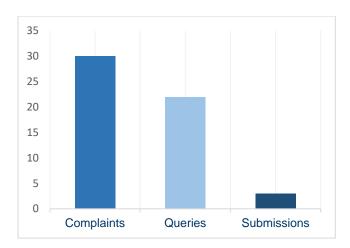


Figure 3 | Case Types

While some of the cases received can be handled in a relatively straightforward manner, many of the cases involve the consideration of voluminous and complex technical detail. Often, particularly with complaints, the processing of cases can be time consuming, involving a series of correspondence with the customer, the relevant local authority or both. This is demonstrated by the fact that the 55 cases closed in Q2 required some 300 working hours to process.

While a broad range of themes arose in the OPR's case handling during Q2, several dominant themes prevailed. The two most common themes were 'Enforcement / Unauthorised Development', and 'Individual Planning' followed by 'National Policy', 'Statutory Plan-making' and 'Legal and Ownership Issues'.

Additional case themes included 'Local Authority Development and Part 8', 'An Coimisiún Pleanála' and 'Other'. The theme entitled 'Other' includes a variety of issues such as: planning statistics, Oireachtas queries.

	Case Theme
1	Enforcement / Unauthorised Development
2	Individual Planning
3	National Policy
4	Statutory Plan-making
5	Legal and Ownership issues

Table 7 | Main Themes of Cases Closed

#### **Complaints**

The statutory provisions are precise with regard to the types of complaints that fall within the OPR's remit to examine. For a complaint to be considered examinable under the legislation, it must relate to the organisation of the local authority and of the systems and procedures used by it in the performance of its planning functions.

Based on the procedural matters raised, the Office gave preliminary examination to 11 of the 55 complaints that were closed during Q2 with one of these complaints upheld. This complaint related to 'Enforcement/Unauthorised Development'.

# Research, Education, Training and **Public Awareness**

## **Councillor Training**

In Q2 in line with the OPR's statutory mandate to conduct education and training programmes for members of planning authorities and regional assemblies in respect of matters relating to proper planning and sustainable development, the OPR delivered a bespoke planning training webinar for elected members in conjunction with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG).

The webinar titled 'Dealing with Vacancy and Dereliction' was delivered in May and the presentations dealt with:

- Addressing Vacancy and Dereliction Policy and Supports;
- Dealing with Vacancy and Dereliction and the Repair and Lease Scheme; and
- Activating Derelict and Vacant Property Using Compulsory Purchase Powers.

#### The presentations were delivered by:

- Ann Marie O'Connor, Principal Officer in the Vacant Homes Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Ivan Grimes, Director of Services with responsibility for Planning, Corporate, Culture, HR and IS in Waterford City and County Council; and
- Audrey Crowe, Administrative Officer, Property Management Services, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate, Limerick City and County Council.

The presentations were followed by a Q&A session. A recording of the webinar was uploaded to the OPR website together with the presentations.

# **Local Authority and Regional Assembly Staff Training**

In Q2 in line with the OPR's statutory mandate to conduct education and training programmes for staff of local authorities and regional assemblies in respect of matters relating to proper planning and sustainable development, the OPR delivered three bespoke webinars, details of which are set out hereunder.

The first webinar was delivered in April in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and focused on 'Implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024'. The presentation was delivered by:

- Mary Jones, Principal Officer in the Planning Legislation Reform Unit in the DHLGH; and
- Colin Ryan, Senior Planning Adviser in the National Strategic Planning Unit of the DHLGH.

The presentation was followed by a comprehensive Q&A session. The presentation from the webinar was uploaded to the OPR website.

The second webinar was delivered in May and focused on 'Brownfield Land Activation'. The presentations dealt with:

- The OPR Research Series Report RSR01 on Brownfield Land Activation;
- Activating Public Brownfield Land for New Homes; and
- Activating Brownfield Regeneration: Galway City Council's Approach.

The presentations were delivered by:

- Sinéad Mullen, Senior Planner with the OPR's Research, Training and Public Awareness team:
- Eoin McEnery, Divisional Director with Mitchell McDermott, Construction Consultants;
- Tadhg Daly, Planning and Urban Designer, Land Development Agency (LDA);
- Alan Kelly, Strategic Planning Manager, LDA; and
- Eoghan Lynch, Senior Planner, Galway City Council.

The presentations were followed by a Q&A session. The presentations and the recording of the webinar are available on the OPR website.

The third webinar was delivered in June in conjunction with the NTA and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and focused on 'Local Transport Plans and the Statutory Planmaking Process'. The presentations dealt with:

- Local Transport Plans, Lessons Learnt and the Revision of the NTA's Area-Based Transport Assessment Methodology; and
- Experience of Local Transport Plan Preparation.

The presentations were delivered by:

- Julie Galbraith, Land Use and Transport Planner with the NTA; and
- John Keating, Senior Planner with the OPR.

The presentations were followed by a Q&A where the speakers were joined by:

- David Clements, Senior Land Use and Transport Planner with the NTA; and
- Tara Spain, Head of Land Use Planning with TII.

The presentations and the recording of the webinar are available on the OPR website.

### Publication of Educational Material for Local Authority and Regional Assembly Staff and Other Key Stakeholders

During Q2, the OPR hosted a meeting of the Planning Law Bulletin Steering Group and agreed the case selection for the eighth edition of the 'Learning from Litigation' bulletin. The OPR and the Group agreed that this edition would be themed. The cases selected all feature judgments relating to renewable energy projects specifically wind energy developments. The OPR's legal advisers drafted the case summaries in conjunction with the OPR. The cases included:

- Coolglass Wind Farm Limited v An Bord Pleanála, Ireland the Attorney General [2025] IEHC 1:
- Annagh Wind Farm Limited v An Bord Pleanála [2025] IEHC 2;
- Eco Advocacy CLG and An Bord Pleanála, and Statkraft Ireland Limited [2025] IEHC
- Nagle View Turbine Aware Group v An Bord Pleanála, and Coom Green Energy Park Limited [2024] IEHC 603.

The eighth edition of the 'Learning from Litigation' bulletin was published in Q2.

This edition was shared with stakeholders and promoted extensively via the OPR's LinkedIn account. The bulletin is published on a quarterly basis and the next edition will be published in September.

## Implementation of the Learning and Development Strategy for **Local Authority Planning Staff**

In Q2 work continued on the implementation of the Local Authority Planning Sector Learning and Development Strategy. The OPR met regularly with the Local Authority Services National Training Group's (LASNTG's) Secretary and Planning Advisor and participated in a meeting of the Planning Services Training Group (PSTG). The PSTG is a pillar under the LASNTG and is responsible for the development and delivery of training courses to meet the training needs of the local government planning services sector. In Q2 the following progress was achieved:

- The four planning fundamental courses were rolled out across LASNTG's five regional training centres. 19 courses were delivered and 210 local authority staff availed of the training;
- Work was advanced on the development of the planning specific technical report writing course. A courseware development team was established and La Touche Training was appointed to deliver the training. A pilot course was delivered on the 20th June in Ballincollig and the course will be formally rolled out in Q3/Q4;
- Following discussions with the South East Technological University (SETU) regarding their Renewable Energy Technology Course (Level 7) agreement has been reached to adapt the course to be more specific for planning staff. The adapted course will be available to planners working in local authorities and will start in September 2025; and
- An Urban Design Focus Group has been established comprising representatives from the DHLGH (Built Heritage Section), the OPR; An Coimisiún Pleanála, Dublin City Council, Kildare County Council and the Land Development Agency (LDA) with a view to defining the specific topic requirements to be included in a new course. A training plan with details of the course topics has been drafted and issued to the Group for comment and will be reviewed at the next meeting in early Q3.

#### Ministerial Action Plan on Planning Resources

The Steering Group, established by the DHLGH, to coordinate and oversee the development of a Ministerial Action Plan on Planning Resources met in April and May. The OPR is a member of the Steering Group. The aim of the Ministerial Action Plan is to increase the pool of planning and related expertise and to bring forward new talent to meet present and future needs. The OPR is responsible for chairing Working Group One on planning education and co-chairing Working Group Four on innovation and efficiency. Throughout Q2, the Working Group met on five occasions.

## **Initial Consortium Steering Group on Planner Apprenticeship Project**

The OPR is represented on the Initial Consortium Steering Group (ICSG) on Planner Apprenticeships. This group comprises representatives from the DHLGH, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), the CCMA, the LGMA, An Coimisiún Pleanála, the OPR, the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) and the private sector. The aim of the group is to support the development of a planner apprenticeship.

Throughout Q2, the OPR continued to engage with stakeholders to progress the apprenticeship proposal.

The Initial Application for the development of a Level 8 Planning Apprenticeship was approved by the National Apprenticeship Alliance in June.

# Stakeholder Engagement

#### **National Planning Knowledge Group**

A meeting of the National Planning Knowledge Group (NPKG) was held in May 2025. During the course of the meeting the OPR provided:

- Confirmation of the information relating to the NPKG that will be published on the OPR website to comply with the Transparency Code prepared under the Lobbying Act 2015;
- An overview of the research projects being progressed in accordance with the Strategic Planning Research Programme; and
- An update on the planning training and educational work being undertaken for local authority and regional assembly elected members and staff.

#### Representatives from the DHLGH provided an update on:

- The approval of the revised National Planning Framework (NPF) and the commencement of its implementation:
- The implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (the 2024 Act) including the publication of the implementation plan and the range of initiatives to support training and engagement for the planning sector to prepare for the phased transition to the 2024 Act.

#### Representatives from Maynooth University provided an updated on:

- The Regional Development Monitor (RDM) and the tools and dashboards that are available therein together with the training that is being rolled out for stakeholders; and
- The new National Census Atlas Dashboard that forms part of the RDM.

## **OPR Research Output**

During Q2 the OPR advanced work on a number of research projects identified within the Strategic Planning Research Programme (2023-2025) some of which were long-term projects carried over from the original Strategic Planning Research Programme (2020-2022).

#### **Strand One (Planning Issues) Projects**

In Q2, the OPR issued feedback to the UCD research team on the third draft of the 'Understanding Rural Housing Dynamics' report. The third draft, issued in Q1, incorporated references to the NPF revision and programme for government action together with substantial redrafting to chapters 2 and 6.

In Q2, the OPR progressed work in partnership with the Climate and Environment Policy Unit in the DHLGH on the research project relating to the examination of the Annex II EIA Thresholds and Criteria in Ireland in the context of the planning legislation. The research report lead authors were Fieldfisher and environment expert input was provided by Fothergill TC Ltd. During Q2, the OPR led the coordination of the final editing, proofreading and graphics; the report was fully signed off in June and will be available to the Climate and Environmental Policy Unit for their use as part of consultation on new planning regulations.

During Q2 work commenced on the Public Realm Developments research project the aim of which is to highlight and promote the work that is being undertaken by local authorities to enhance the public realm in towns and cities. An onsite meeting was held with Westmeath County Council in Athlone to review the recently completed public realm works. The intention is that the OPR will showcase the work on the OPR website in an effort to highlight how Westmeath County Council approached the work and to share the lessons learnt with the wider local authority sector. The intention is to prepare a short video clip showcasing the public realm works in Athlone and this will be uploaded to a dedicated webpage on the OPR website. Recording of the video is scheduled to take place in Q3 in conjunction with Westmeath County Council.

#### **Strand Two (Planning Performance) Projects**

In Q2 Case Study Paper CSP07 dealing with 'Quarries and the Local Authority Development Plan' was finalised and published on the OPR's website and was promoted extensively via the OPR LinkedIn account and disseminated to OPR stakeholders.

During Q2, the OPR continued to participate in the Steering Committee for the EPA - Pro-Health SEA Project. This project seeks to develop a Toolkit for Proportionate and Consistent Consideration of Population and Human Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment. In Q2 the OPR undertook reviews of the draft toolkit and infographic. The final research report has been issued for review by the Steering Committee in early Q3. Following sign-off by the steering committee and the EPA board, it is anticipated this research may be published in late 2025.

#### **Strand Three (Planning Practice) Projects**

During Q2 work commenced on Practice Note PN06 on Development Plan Monitoring. Following the appointment of the contractor, MacCabe Durney Barnes, to prepare the practice note, a Steering Committee was established. Thereafter a workshop was held with key stakeholders to:

- Test the core principles and themes that will underpin the practice note;
- Examine key indicators and data sources for monitoring; and
- Assess the usefulness of differing data types.

It is anticipated that the draft practice note will be finalised in Q3-Q4.

# **Communications and Digital Analytics**

In Q2 the Communications team continued to support the OPR across media, social media and events. Some highlights included:

- To support implementation of the Ministerial Action Plan on Planning Resources, the Communications team provided Secretariat to Working Group One Planning Education and were a member of Working Group Two Planning Recruitment.
- The Communications team responded to media queries regarding the work of the OPR. The OPR attended the IPI Conference in April and Niall Cussen, Planning Regulator, was interviewed on the IPI Podcast which broadcast first publicly on the 16 June.
- Work continued promoting planning matters and planning as a career of choice, welcoming the inclusion of 'planner' on the critical skills list.
- GIS Training was provided to OPR staff in May.
- The Communications and Digital Analytics team collated the Annual Report which was submitted to the Minister in June.
- The Communications and Digital Analytics team supported the OPR Workshop on Development Plan monitoring in June.
- The Communications team published their quarterly stakeholder newsletter to 1,711 subscribers, in June.
- The OPR continued our engaging social media calendar promoting events and resources to raise awareness of resources and activities underway. There was a large increase of followers on LinkedIn and a small decrease on X followers during Q2 2025, as outlined below. This aligns with the OPR's prioritisation of LinkedIn as a platform during this period:
  - LinkedIn: 4374 followers. Increase of 180 on last quarter.
  - X: 2492 followers. Decrease of 21 on last quarter.



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