



Oifig an  
Rialaitheora Pleanála  
Office of the  
Planning Regulator

# Office of the Planning Regulator

## Activity Report

Quarter 4 of 2025



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# Introduction

This is the twenty-third 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 Q4 2025, 20 consultations on statutory plans opened for public consultation. These consultations related to:

- 15 draft variations to existing CDPs; and
- five material alterations to a draft variation to existing CDPs.

# OPR Submissions on Statutory Plans

In Q4 2025, the OPR made 19 submissions to local authorities. Table 1 below sets out a breakdown by plan-type. In Q4 the majority of submissions related to variations to existing CDPs at draft stage.

Submissions on Statutory Plans	
<b>Issues Papers for County Development Plans:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Issues Papers for the Meath County Development Plan 2027-2033</li><li>Issues Papers for the Louth County Development Plan 2027-2033</li></ul>	2
<b>Variations to City/County Development Plans:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Variation No. 6 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Variation No. 7 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Variation No. 8 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Variation No. 9 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Variation No. 1 to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Variation No. 1 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029</li><li>Variation No. 2 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029</li><li>Variation No. 3 to the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Variation No. 2 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029</li><li>Variation No. 3 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029</li><li>Variation No. 7 to Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027</li><li>Variation No. 1 to the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Variation No. 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028</li></ul>	13
<b>Material Alterations to Variations to City/County Development Plans:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Material Alterations to Variation No. 2 to the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Material Alterations to Variation No. 2 to the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028</li><li>Material Alterations to Variation No. 1 to the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027</li><li>Material Alterations to Variation No. 4 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028</li></ul>	4
<b>Total:</b>	19

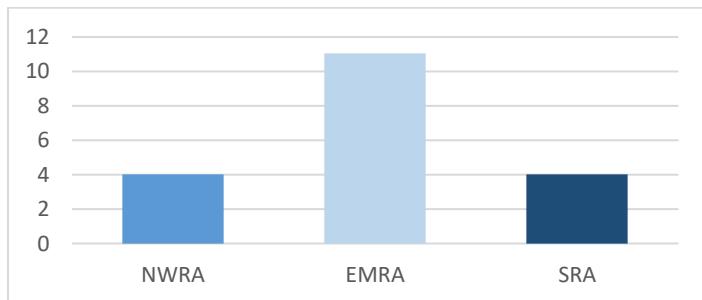
**Table 1** | Submissions on Statutory Plans

## 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 Q4 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 requested 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 advises local authorities to action an observation.

Table 2 below sets out the number of observations and recommendations made by the OPR in Q4 2025.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Recommendations and Observations Made by the OPR</b>			
	<b>Submissions (number):</b>	<b>Recommendations (number):</b>	<b>Observations (number):</b>
Draft Variations to CDPs	13	17	4
Material Alterations to Variations to CDPs	4	7	2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>

**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
- Consistency with legislative provisions in relation to Climate Action.

A breakdown of the recommendations and observations made in Q4 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 in Table 2 above.

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<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.

OPR Recommendations	Number
Consistency with NPF	26
Consistency with RSES	9
Consistency with DP	6
Consistency with NTA TS for GDA	0
Policy Matters re Section 28 Guidelines	14
Consistency with Legislative Provisions	4
Consistency with Legislative Provisions re Climate Change	3
Other	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>66</b>

**Table 3** | OPR Recommendations

OPR Observations	Number
Consistency with NPF	2
Consistency with RSES	0
Consistency with DP	0
Consistency with NTA TS for GDA	0
Policy Matters re Section 28 Guidelines	3
Consistency with Legislative Provisions	0
Consistency with Legislative Provisions re Climate Change	0
Other	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6</b>

**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 nine plans were adopted in Q4 2025.

Old Connaught Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was adopted by planning authority in Q4 2025. The Office made no recommendations at the draft and material alterations stage of this plan.

In addition, eight variations to existing CDPs were made in Q4 2025:

- Variation No. 1 to the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Variation No.1 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031
- Variation No. 1 to the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Variation No. 2 to the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Variation No. 3 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027
- Variations No. 6, 7 and 8 to the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028.

In total, the OPR made 12 recommendations to these proposed variations at the draft and material alterations stages. The OPR completed its assessment of all eight variations in Q4 2025 and found that all recommendations were satisfactorily addressed.

## **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.

In Q4 2025, the OPR did not issue any recommendations to the Minister on draft directions.

## **Final Directions**

The OPR issued a recommendation to the Minister of a final Direction on three plans in Q3 2025:

- Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031
- Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

The Minister issued a final recommendation on all three plans in Q4 2025.

**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 completed.

# Stakeholder Engagement

## Engagement with Local Authorities

During Q4 2025, the OPR continued to engage with local authorities, meeting with:

- Carlow County Council
- Cavan County Council
- Cork City and County Council
- Limerick City and County Council
- Dublin City Council
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
- Fingal County Council
- Galway County Council
- Kerry County Council
- Kilkenny County Council
- Laois County Council
- Leitrim County Council
- Louth County Council
- Meath County Council
- South Dublin County Council
- Wexford 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 October 2025, which enabled discussions between all organisations on statutory plans subject to public consultation over that period.

# Reviews and Examinations

## OPR Planning Reviews

Under planning legislation, the OPR is empowered to conduct reviews of the systems and procedures used by local authorities and An Coimisiún Pleanála to deliver planning functions. In this regard the OPR fulfils an important oversight and monitoring role in relation to the overall delivery of planning services to the public.

The undertaking of any individual review process is comprehensive, involving significant processes of information gathering, analysis and engagement between the OPR and planning officials. Following the completion of each review the OPR continues to engage with the relevant authority for a period of at least two years to monitor and support the successful implementation of the review recommendations.

The OPR carries out local authority planning reviews on a rolling basis. These reviews provide authorities with valuable operational insights and recommendations to strengthen their planning practices and procedures. At a national level, the programme supports a culture of continuous improvement across the Irish planning system.

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

The OPR have prepared the draft review. In line with legislation, the OPR circulated the draft review to the Council and to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The report will be finalised and published in 2025 following the receipt of any feedback.

### **Review of Longford County Council**

The OPR progressed its review of Longford County Council.

# Local Authority Monitoring

The OPR continues to engage with local authorities in relation to the implementation of OPR review recommendations. To that end, in Q4, the Office engaged with the following local authorities:

County Council	Timeline
<b>Roscommon County Council</b>	6-month progress update
<b>South Dublin County Council</b>	12-month progress update
<b>Meath County Council</b>	12-month progress update
<b>Waterford City and County Council</b>	12-month progress update
<b>Offaly County Council</b>	18-month progress update

**Table 5 | Local Authority Monitoring**

## Thematic Review

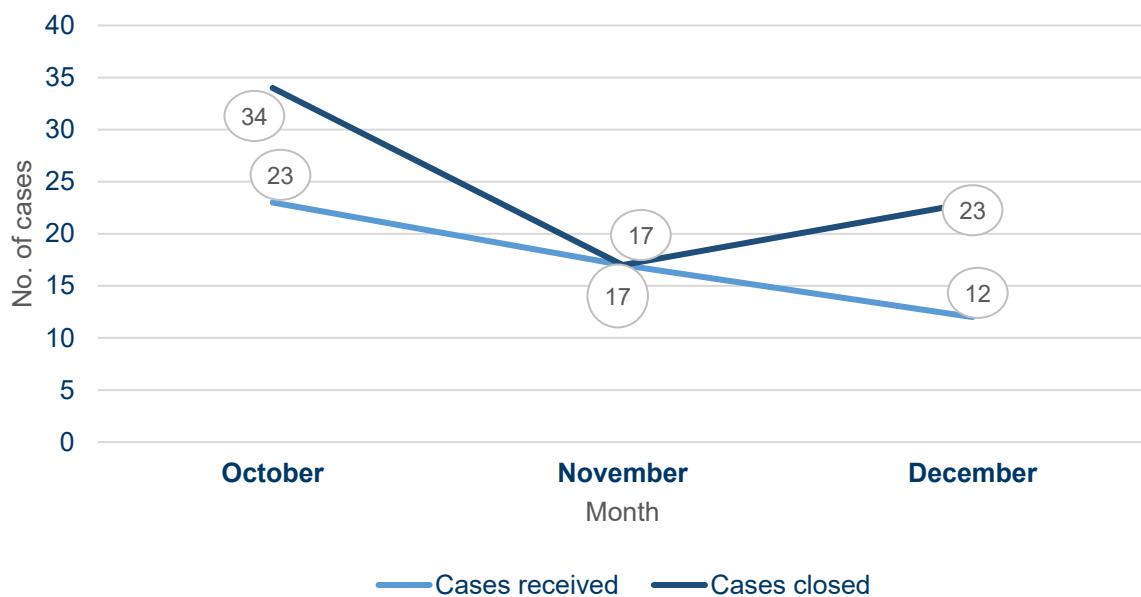
Q4 also saw the OPR initiate a thematic review of the effectiveness of local authority planning enforcement of illegal peat extraction. The Environmental Protection Agency published a report in June 2025 (EPA Report) which outlined its investigations in relation to unauthorised large-scale peat extraction operations. The OPR review seeks to build on the work of the EPA by reviewing the relevant systems and procedures of the relevant local authorities. It is envisaged that the report will be completed and presented to the Minister by Q2 2026.

# Case Handling

## Case Activity

The OPR provides a service to the public on planning-related cases. These include queries and general information requests; submissions on aspects of operation of the planning process; and complaints about the delivery of planning services.

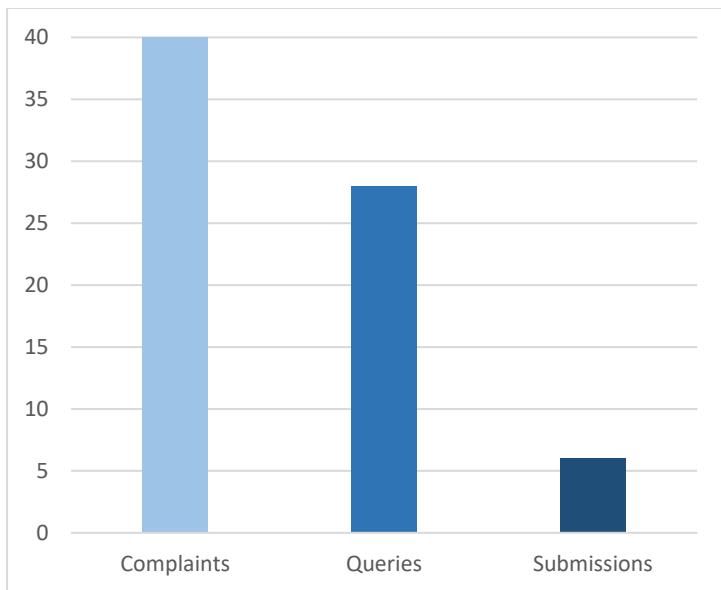
During Q4, a total of 52 cases were received, and 74 cases were closed by the OPR, detailed by month in Figure 2 below.



**Figure 2 |** Cases Received vs. Cases Closed Q4, 2025

The 74 cases closed in Q4 consisted of:

- 40 complaints
- 28 queries
- Six submissions



**Figure 3 | Case Types**

While some can be resolved in a relatively straightforward manner, many require considering extensive and complex technical information. Processing cases can take time, and often involve multiple correspondence with the customer and/or the relevant local authority.

The OPR treat all cases with the highest level of care and respect. The OPR aims to serve as a public resource on the planning system and, where possible, to provide independent guidance in relation to planning policy in Ireland. This means queries, submissions and matters that are outside of the OPR's statutory remit are given the same careful consideration as formal complaints.

It is also worth noting that submissions from the public can raise issues of overall relevance for the operation of the planning system. For example, a submission made to the OPR during Q4 highlighted the need for greater clarification about the existing exempted development provisions for residential extensions. This related to the condition that an extension to the rear of a house must not reduce the area of private open space to less than 25 square metres and whether this area must be calculated as being directly behind the existing house or to the rear of the building line of the house.

The interpretation of this requirement by planning officials could have significant implications for homeowners and should be considered in the context of the Government's stated objective to maximise the accommodation potential within the existing envelope of dwellings. The OPR has formally raised the matter in the context of the DHLGH ongoing review of planning regulations, including the exempted development provisions.

While a broad range of themes featured in the OPR's case handling during Q4, several key themes emerged. As Figure 4 illustrates, individual planning cases were the most common theme, followed by enforcement and unauthorised developments, with third-party submissions and notifications appearing next.



**Figure 4** | Distribution of Main Themes of Cases Closed

## **Complaints**

The statutory provisions set out clearly the types of complaints that fall within the OPR's remit. 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 it uses in the performance of its planning functions.

Of the 40 complaints closed by the OPR during Q4, 12 reached the statutory threshold for preliminary examination based on the procedural matters raised. Of these, three were upheld. These included matters related to the appropriate documentation of planning compliance; the processing of third-party submissions; and the issuing of notifications in relation to Part 8 developments. The remaining complaints were not upheld.

The OPR determined that the local authorities had followed proper procedure or the matters raised did not represent a systemic concern. These complaints included matters such as procedures for local authority / Part 8 developments, unauthorised development and notifications to third parties.

# Research, Education, Training and Public Awareness

## Councillor Training

In Q4 the OPR continued to fulfil its statutory mandate to deliver education and training programmes for members of planning authorities and regional assemblies in respect of matters relating to proper planning and sustainable development.

In November, the OPR, working in conjunction with the Association of Irish Local Government (the AILG), held in-person training for elected members in Wexford and Athlone.

The training dealt with ‘The Evolving Planning Context and the New Ministerial Guidelines under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act’.

Presentations were delivered by Alma Walsh and Claragh Mulhern from the Planning Division of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Karen Kenny and Brian Kennedy from the Housing Activation Office.

The aim of the training was to support elected members in their:

- understanding of the evolving planning context; and
- engagement with the policy objectives underpinning the Ministerial Guidelines on NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements (published in July 2025).

The presentations were followed by a Questions and Answers session. The recording of the Wexford event was published on the OPR’s website.

# Local Authority and Regional Assembly Staff Training

## Planning and Development Act 2024 Training

In Q4, the OPR, working with DHLGH and the County and City Management Association (CCMA), delivered nine in-person training events on Part 3 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (i.e. Plans, Policies and Related Matters).

The training was provided over two days, at four regional locations nationwide. These were Waterford, Cork, Galway and Portlaoise. A final day (a sweeper day) was facilitated in Malahide, Co. Dublin. A resource pack comprising relevant material from the training events was emailed to all attendees.

In Q4 the DHLGH approved the OPR's Estimate of Costs for the delivery of Package 2 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 training dealing with Part 4 – Development Consents and other key parts in the 2024 Act. Upon receipt of approval of the funding the OPR proceeded to confirm dates and venues as follows:

### Day 1 – January 2026

Date	Location
Wednesday, 21 January 2026	Waterford
Thursday, 22 January 2026	Cork
Wednesday, 28 January 2026	Galway
Thursday, 29 January 2026	Portlaoise

### Day 2 – February/March 2026

Date	Location
Wednesday, 25 February 2026	Waterford
Thursday, 26 February 2026	Cork
Monday, 2 March 2026	Portlaoise
Wednesday 4 March 2026	Galway

A sweeper day has also been confirmed for 11 March 2026 in Malahide, Co. Dublin.

Throughout Q4 the OPR worked extensively with the DHLGH and the CCMA to:

- identify speakers and to work with the speakers to develop training content for the events;
- promote the training via the local authority sector and the regional assemblies;
- register expressions of interest; and
- manage bookings and venues for the events.

## **Delivery of Planning Training Webinar for Local Authority and Regional Assembly Staff**

In November the OPR delivered a webinar for local authority and regional assembly staff on the ‘Athlone Town Centre Public Realm Improvements’.

Presentations were delivered by:

- the Mayor of Athlone and Moate Municipal District, Councillor Vinny McCormack;
- Lorraine Middleton, Executive Planner with Westmeath County Council;
- Noel Beggan and Dermot Killeen from Westmeath County Council’s Regeneration and Capital Projects Team; and
- Cathaldus Hartin, Senior Planner with Westmeath County Council.

The presentations were followed by a Questions and Answers session. 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 Q4, the OPR hosted a meeting of the Planning Law Bulletin Steering Group and agreed the case selection for the tenth edition of the ‘Learning from Litigation’ bulletin. After this, the OPR engaged with legal practitioners to draft the case summaries. The cases included:

- Friends of Killymooney Lough V An Coimisiún Pleanála, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ireland and the Attorney General, and Tesco Ireland Limited [2025] IEHC 407;

- Karla Moran v An Bord Pleanála, Kildare County Council and Ann Guiden [2025] IEHC 510;
- Ailsa Sexton v An Bord Pleanála, and Fingal County Council [2025] IEHC 449; and
- Jane Phelan Walsh v An Bord Pleanála, and Fingal County Council [2025] IEHC533.

The tenth edition of the ‘Learning from Litigation’ bulletin was published in Q4. This edition was shared with stakeholders and promoted extensively via the OPR’s LinkedIn account.

It is intended that the legal bulletin will be published quarterly.

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

In Q4 the OPR continued to work with the CCMA, DHLGH and the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) on the implementation of the Local Authority Planning Sector Learning and Development Strategy.

A meeting of the Planning Services Training Group (PSTG) was held in December. 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 sector. At this meeting it was agreed that a review of the Local Authority Planning Sector Learning and Development Strategy should be undertaken and this will commence early in the New Year.

Separately in Q4 the following progress was made on the implementation of the existing strategy as follows:

- The rollout of planning fundamental courses continued across LASNTG’s five regional training centres with the exception of the forward planning element. The forward planning element was paused in Q4 to allow for updates to the courseware content to reflect the amendments introduced under the 2024 Act. Delivery of this element will resume in 2026.
- The planning specific technical report writing course was rolled out for all interested parties.
- Following the completion of procurement, Dr. Conor Norton, Loci was appointed to develop and deliver the new Urban Design Fundamentals course. The course was piloted in Roscrea in December. It will be formally rolled out in 2026.

## **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 November. 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 education and co-chairing working group four on innovation and efficiency. Throughout Q4, both groups continued works on their reports for the Steering Group.

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

The OPR is represented on the 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 Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), An Coimisiún Pleanála, the OPR, the Irish Planning Institute and the private sector. The aim of the group is to support the development of a spatial planning apprenticeship. The OPR continued to engage with key stakeholders to progress the apprenticeship including the appointed coordinating provider, TU Dublin. A meeting of the Consortium Group was held in November and an input was provided to the CCMA's Planning and Land Use Committee meeting in December.

# Stakeholder Engagement

## National Planning Knowledge Group

The National Planning Knowledge Group (NPKG) held its final meeting of 2025 in October.

During the meeting the OPR provided an:

- update on the research projects being progressed under the existing Strategic Planning Research Programme (2023-2025);
- overview of the work that is ongoing to develop a new Strategic Planning Research Programme for the period from 2026-2028 and the emerging themes; and
- 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 overview of the Section 28 Guidelines for Planning Authorities on NPF Implementation and Housing Growth Requirements (published in July 2025).

Members of the Group discussed potential topics that could be included in the OPR's new research programme and undertook to revert with further suggestions in advance of the next meeting in February 2026.

# OPR Research Output

During Q4 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**

During Q4 the OPR advanced work on the Public Realm Developments research project. The aim of this project is to highlight and promote the work that is being undertaken by local authorities to enhance the public realm in towns and cities and share learning and knowledge across the sector.

The public realm project's initial focus has been on public realm improvements recently completed in Athlone by Westmeath County Council. The OPR, working in conjunction with Westmeath County Council, prepared a promotional video to showcase the Athlone public realm improvements.

This was published on the OPR website in Q4 together with a webpage to highlight how the Council approached this work and to share the lessons learnt with the wider local authority sector. In addition, as noted above, to support this research work, the OPR delivered a webinar for local authority and regional assembly staff on the 'Athlone Town Centre Public Realm Improvements'. The presentations and the recording of the webinar are available on the OPR website.

In Q4, the UCD team issued the final draft of the research report 'Understanding Rural Housing Dynamics'. This research was jointly commissioned by the OPR and the DHLGH in 2023. The research includes extensive surveys with rural households which were undertaken in the summer of 2023 and desktop analysis of development plans.

Updates to the research were undertaken to include Census 2022 publications and changes to wider policy context, such as the National Planning Framework. The timeline for publication of the research will be reviewed in early 2026 with the DHLGH.

During Q4 the OPR published the 'Research Report on 'Legal Costs in Planning and Environmental Judicial Reviews' and the 'Addendum Report on Scale of Fees'.

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

During Q4 work was progressed on Case Study Paper CSP08, examining best practice on integrating green infrastructure, nature-based solutions and ecosystem services into land use plans.

The appointed contractor, MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants, completed the desktop research including the policy and literature overview and the review of city and county development plans. Several case study or 'pathfinder' planning authorities were identified and interviews with these will be undertaken in early 2026. It is envisaged that the draft case study paper will be finalised in Q1 2026.

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

During Q4 work continued on the drafting of Practice Note PN06 on Development Plan Monitoring. Following overview by the OPR a draft was circulated to the steering committee for feedback and review. Initial comments were received from steering committee members. In early 2026 further engagement and edits will be undertaken with the steering committee, and in particular with the DHLGH to ensure alignment with wider policy. After which, the draft will be moved to a wider peer review stage, prior to publication. It is envisaged that the draft practice note will be finalised in Q1 2026.

The OPR, together with the Housing Agency, also provided support to Trinity College Dublin (TCD) in the delivery of a workshop for the Construct Innovate funded project 'TEACH' (Trade-off Evaluation and Assessment of Compact Housing developments). Following the workshop the TCD team will write up the research findings and submit to Construct Innovate. The OPR and Housing Agency will monitor opportunities to build on the research findings in future research programmes and collaborations.

In November, the OPR collaborated with Sport Ireland in a workshop at their campus in Blanchardstown. At the workshop the OPR presented findings from preliminary research on the theme of active amenity space and sports policies in development plans. Sport Ireland presented their work in Demand and Capacity Modelling in Ireland. The workshop was attended by a broad range of national sporting bodies, officials from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport (DCCS) and the DHLGH. It is intended that a joint paper will be finalised in early 2026. This work will inform the review of the Strategic Planning Research Programme and will also inform other relevant OPR work streams and stakeholder engagement.

# Communications and Digital Analytics

In Q4 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 membership of Working Group Two Planning Recruitment.
- The Communications team responded to media queries regarding the OPR.
- The Communications team published their quarterly stakeholder newsletter in December.
- The OPR continued an 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 Q4 2025, as outlined below. This aligns with the OPR's prioritisation of LinkedIn as a platform during this period:
  - **LinkedIn:** 4,571 followers. Increase of 197 on last quarter.
  - **X:** 2435 followers. Decrease of 57 on last quarter.



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