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Permit procedures for industrial installations and infrastructure projects: Assessing integration and speeding up

Ireland

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Introduction

In Ireland, the general position is that planning permission must be obtained from the relevant local planning authority before commencing 'development'. 'Development' is defined in the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2016 (PDA),[1] as 'the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.'[2] The applicant / potential developer, and any person who made a submission or observation on the application for permission, may appeal against the local planning authority's decision to grant or refuse planning permission. Appeals are made to An Bord Pleanála (the Planning Appeals Board)[3] which was established in 1976 and is essentially a quasi-judicial tribunal. Appeals are considered as if the application for permission had been made to An Bord Pleanála in the first instance and An Bord Pleanála's decision operates to annul the decision of the planning authority.

In addition to its appellate role (above), An Bord Pleanála is responsible for the determination of applications for public and private strategic infrastructure development.[4] The PDA sets out the various classes of private infrastructure projects which can constitute strategic infrastructure development across four headings concerning energy, transport,

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[1] PDA Revised Act updated to 8 February 2016 available here: http://www.lawreform.ie/_fileupload/RevisedActs/WithAnnotations/HTML/EN_ACT_2000_0030.HTM.

[2] Certain categories of development are exempted from the requirement to obtain planning permission, subject to limitations and conditions.

[3] See generally www.pleanala.ie. While "The Planning Appeals Board" is the most commonly cited English translation of An Bord Pleanála's official title, it is a misleading title in light of the fact that determining planning appeals is but one of the many areas of work assigned to An Bord Pleanála. A more accurate title in the English language would be "The Planning Board".

[4] 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' is defined in PDA, section 2.

environmental and health infrastructure. In order for a project to qualify as strategic infrastructure development, An Bord Pleanála must be satisfied that it meets one of the three criteria specified in PDA, section 37A. In brief terms, the three criteria are: (1) that the proposed project is of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be located; (2) that it would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Spatial Strategy or in the relevant regional spatial economic strategy; (3) that it would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority. Applications for permission for strategic infrastructure development are made *directly* to An Bord Pleanála rather than the local planning authority. The idea here is to provide a streamlined procedure for these projects which essentially bypasses the local stage of the decision-making process. This procedure was introduced under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 and came into effect on 31 January 2007.

An Bord Pleanála is the designated competent authority for overseeing the permit-granting process for the assessment, approval and permitting of cross-border energy infrastructure projects, known as Projects of Common Interest, under Regulation 347/2013 on Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure.[5]

In addition to planning permission, various other consents, licences etc. may be required in a particular case, depending on the nature and / or location of the proposed development, activity or operation. In particular, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)[6] is the competent authority for applications for Industrial Emissions Directive licences, Integrated Pollution Control licences and waste licences.

The validity of the decision of the local planning authority and / or An Bord Pleanála, as the case may be, may be challenged by way of an application for judicial review before the High Court. In the case of strategic infrastructure development, there is no administrative appeal from An Bord Pleanála's decision on an application for permission. The only route of challenge is by way of judicial review in the High Court.

[5] See generally, An Bord Pleanála, *Projects of Common Interest: Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures* (September 2014) http://www.pleanala.ie/publications/2014/pocimanual.pdf.
[6] See generally www.epa.ie.

A. Baseline information

I. Industrial Installations

1. Forms and scope of permits

In broad terms, what are the forms and scope of permits necessary to construct and operate an industrial installation (e.g. an industrial installation in the sense of Annexes I or II of Directive 2011/92/EU)?

In this case, generally speaking, the applicant / potential developer would require planning permission *to construct* the installation and would also require the necessary licence (Industrial Emissions Directive licence / Integrated Pollution Control licence or waste licence) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *to operate* the particular activity. The type of licence required will depend on the precise nature of the proposed activity. Depending on the nature and location of the proposed installation, it may qualify as 'strategic infrastructure development' (see above), in which case the application for planning permission is made directly to An Bord Pleanála rather than to the local planning authority. A dumping at sea permit from the EPA may be required if dumping of material at sea is involved.

If the proposed development involves development on the foreshore, then the necessary foreshore lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Where required, environmental impact assessment (EIA) and / or Appropriate Assessment are integrated into the various consent procedures that apply in a particular case, giving rise to the necessity to have multiple EIAs of various aspects of a development within the jurisdiction of the various regulatory authorities.

Where both planning permission and a licence from the EPA are required, and the project / activity is subject to EIA, planning and pollution control legislation provides for a measure of co-ordination between the planning authority / An Bord Pleanála on the one hand, and the EPA, on the other.

Previously, in Case C-50/09 *Commission v Ireland* EU:C:2011:109 (3 March 2011), the Court of Justice of the EU determined that Irish law did not comply with the requirements of the EIA directive. The Court considered that the manner in which Ireland had sharply divided the decision-making jurisdiction between planning authorities / An Bord Pleanála (with responsibility for planning control) on the one hand, and the EPA (with responsibility for pollution control) on the other, resulted in no guarantee of an integrated environmental assessment being carried out. In the wake of this ruling, amendments were made to the

relevant legislation to address deficiencies identified by the Court of Justice and to underpin greater co-ordination and co-operation between planning authorities / An Bord Pleanála and the EPA. These legislative measures formalised the EPA's role in relation to EIA for licensable activities and created mandatory consultation obligations between planning authorities / An Bord Pleanála and the EPA as regards licensable activities that require EIA. Where both planning permission and a licence is required, the application for permission *must precede* the application to the EPA for a licence and the EPA has a specific role to undertake an EIA in relation to the licensable activity. Beyond the legislation, An Bord Pleanála and the EPA have concluded a 'Memorandum of Understanding' the objective of which is 'to set out a framework for co-ordination on areas of mutual responsibility and shared interest' between the two bodies.[7]

Broadly speaking, the planning permission procedure and the licensing procedure are fairly similar, with both procedures providing significant opportunities for access to information and public participation, including the convening of oral hearings in the more complex and controversial cases. In the specific case of EPA pollution control licensing, there is an opportunity for public participation on the draft licence decision. The most significant point to note is that in the case of planning decisions taken by local planning authorities, there is an appeal to An Bord Pleanála (i.e. a full 'administrative' appeal on the merits of the case). There is no such administrative appeal in the case of strategic infrastructure development where An Bord Pleanála is the first instance decision-maker. While there is no 'external' administrative appeal in the case of EPA licensing decisions as such, when the EPA issues a draft licence (the 'proposed determination'), any person may make an objection to the EPA on the draft licence. The EPA has procedures in place so that any objections to a draft licence are addressed by a technical committee comprising EPA staff other than those involved in the preparation of the draft licence.

Notwithstanding amendments to legislation following the ruling in Case C-50/09 *Commission v Ireland* (see above), some concerns remain as to whether the current system delivers an integrated environmental assessment in situations where both planning permission and a licence from the EPA are required. Early in 2016, it was anticipated that the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government would convene an EIA working group on which planning authorities / An Bord Pleanála and the EPA would be represented, in relation to the transposition of Directive 2014/52/EU. This directive provides for significant amendments to the EIA directive (Directive 2011/92/EU) which must be implemented by the Member States by 16 May 2017. This EIA working group provides a good opportunity to consider and identify how best to address ongoing challenges associated with integrated environmental assessment.

[7] *Memorandum of Understanding: Environmental Protection Agency and An Bord Pleanála*, September 2014 http://www.pleanala.ie/publications/2014/MOUEPAABP.pdf.

2. Procedures

2.1. Short case study:

Can you present a simple flowchart of a permitting procedure for the following installation, indicating the (estimated) time frames of the various steps, key authorities involved, including EIA, and the total time needed to go through the whole procedure in case of administrative appeal?

Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment as defined in Annex I to Directive 2008/98/EC under heading D9 of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day (Annex I, pt. 10 EIA Directive).

As explained in the Introduction (above), a project of this nature would require both planning permission and the relevant licence from the EPA – in this case it is likely that an Industrial Emissions Directive licence will be required. Depending on the particular characteristics of the project, An Bord Pleanála may determine that it qualifies as strategic infrastructure development. If this proves to be the case, which is likely given the nature and scale of this particular project, then the application for planning permission will be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. Depending on the nature and location of the project / installation, a foreshore licence may be required. A dumping at sea permit may also be required if the construction and / or operation of the installation involves the need to dispose of materials at sea.

The **Appendix** to this report contains two flowcharts – one concerning the main stages of the planning process for strategic infrastructure development operated by An Bord Pleanála and the other concerning the pollution control licence process operated by the EPA. The flowcharts include indicative timeframes for the main stages of the planning and pollution control procedures. It is difficult to generalise as regards timeframes as these will vary considerably depending on the nature and complexity of the project at issue and on whether or not the competent authority seeks further information from the applicant / potential developer at any particular point(s) in the process. The length of time taken up by the oral hearing (if any) can also add significantly to the overall timeframe.

2.2 What are the main characteristics of the applicable permit procedure or procedures?

- **Who is (are) the competent authority (authorities)?**

The main competent authorities in this case, assuming that the project involves strategic infrastructure development, are An Bord Pleanála and the EPA. If a foreshore licence is required, then an application for such a licence must be made to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

- **Is EIA integrated in the permitting procedure or is it an autonomous procedure that precedes the introduction of an application for a permit (or for the various permits)? In the latter case, can EIA be carried out once more at the next stage of the development process (e.g. in the building or environmental permit procedure)?**

Generally speaking, EIA is integrated into the planning process and all environmental permitting procedures. Under planning and environmental pollution legislation, both An Bord Pleanála and the EPA have specific obligations in relation to EIA. See further the Introduction (above).

- **Is there a differentiation between large, intermediate and smaller installations? Is a notification to the relevant public authority in some cases sufficient? Is there a possibility to exclude certain installations even from the notification requirement?**

There is no differentiation between installations, as such, and Irish law tends to set somewhat stricter thresholds than European Union law for EIA in certain cases. There is no procedure for notification to the relevant public authority or for exempting installations from the notification requirement.

As explained in the Introduction (above), under Irish law planning permission is required for 'development' and a licence from the EPA is required in order to carry out certain specified activities.

- **Are competent planning and environmental authorities consulted during the decision-making procedure or procedures, if more than one permit is needed? Within what time limit have they to give their opinion? Are these opinions binding or not? Do they have some weight in practice?**

Planning and pollution control legislation makes significant provision for consultation with planning and environmental authorities in the course of development consent procedures. The timeframes involved will depend on the particular procedure at issue. The opinions expressed by planning and environmental authorities are not binding, but the competent authorities are obliged to have regard to them. In practice, these opinions are regarded as very influential.

- **Is there public participation in every case? At which stage of the development? Is it broadly announced and used? What time frames apply? Is the public participation on the application or on the draft decision?**

Planning and pollution control legislation makes significant provision for public participation in the relevant development content procedures. In particular, the public is entitled to

comment on the application for planning permission and for a pollution control licence. This will include the opportunity to comment on the environmental impact statement. Both the planning and pollution control legislation give An Bord Pleanála and the EPA, respectively, a discretion to hold an oral hearing. In practice, an oral hearing is more likely to take place for particularly complex and / or large scale projects and / or where a case involves significant national, regional or local issues of public interest.[8] The timeframes involved will depend on the particular procedure at issue. The public, including environmental NGOs, participate regularly in the planning process. Generally speaking, there tends to be somewhat less participation in the pollution control licensing process when compared with the planning process, but particularly controversial cases will obviously generate considerable public participation. In the specific case of EPA licensing, there is an opportunity for the public to comment on the application and also to object to the draft licence (proposed determination) issued by the EPA. The opportunities to participate are generally advertised widely by way of the requirement for the applicant / potential developer to erect site notices on the site of the proposed development and to publish notice concerning the proposed development in newspapers.

- **What time frame applies from the introduction of the application to the decision in first administrative instance (i.e. when a developer receives final decision allowing to start development, however, before possible appeal to a higher authority)?**

(Please refer to the two flowcharts in the **Appendix** to this report for a general overview of the different stages of the decision-making procedures and indicative timeframes).

Here, again, it is difficult to generalise as regards timeframes. As regards the planning process governing strategic infrastructure development, An Bord Pleanála has a non-binding statutory objective to determine the application within a period of 18 weeks from the last day for making observations on the application. There is a minimum 6 week timeframe for making observations on the application and so, taking this period into account, the total timeframe at issue here is 24 weeks. However, An Bord Pleanála can extend the 18 week period for various stated reasons. According to *An Bord Pleanála Annual Report 2014*, p.36, in the eight years since the strategic infrastructure development provisions have been in place, An Bord Pleanála has formally decided 57 applications of which 32 (56%) were within the statutory time period.[9] It is widely acknowledged that the 18 week statutory objective is

[8] See further, An Bord Pleanála, *Guidelines on Procedures at Oral Hearings*, (2012) http://www.pleanala.ie/publications/2012/oh_procedures.htm which states that in the case of an application for strategic infrastructure development, An Bord Pleanála "will normally direct the holding of an oral hearing, unless the application can be readily assessed by way of written submissions." The EPA's licensing website explains that the factors that would influence the EPA as to whether or not an oral hearing should be directed include: new issues not previously raised that are specific to the location of the development; the sensitivity of the location or local environment; if the matter is of national or regional importance; the scale and complexity of the development; and significant new information.

[9] Text of *An Bord Pleanála Annual Report 2014* available here: http://www.pleanala.ie/news/ar2014.pdf.

not realistic given that strategic infrastructure development involves large, complex projects of regional or national importance which generally require an oral hearing. See further on this point 'Forthcoming developments and recent recommendations for reform' (below).

As regards the EPA industrial emissions licensing process, the EPA is required to issue its proposed determination within eight weeks of the date of receipt of a complete licence application and of any further information the EPA considers necessary. The eight week period only begins to run when any request(s) for further information has been complied with. This period may be extended in certain circumstances, including by agreement with the applicant / potential developer. The EPA has a period of four months for consideration of any objections to a proposed determination / draft licence and it may extend this period if more time is required. Where no valid objection is received within the appropriate period (the statutory objection period is 28 days from the date of notification of the EPA's proposed determination), then the EPA must issue the final licence as and in accordance with its draft licence.

- **Is there an administrative appeal against a decision on a permit or the various needed permits? What is the competent authority (or authorities) to whom an appeal can be lodged? Who can lodge the appeal (only parties of the proceeding, NGO, everybody), within what time? What time frame applies to reach a decision on appeal? What if the time frames are not respected?**

In the case of an application for planning permission for strategic infrastructure development, An Bord Pleanála is the first instance decision-maker and there is no provision for an administrative appeal. The only mechanism by which a challenge may be made to An Bord Pleanála's decision in relation to strategic infrastructure development is by way of an application for judicial review in the High Court. While there is no 'external' administrative appeal in the case of EPA licensing decisions, when the EPA issues a draft licence (proposed determination), any person may make an objection to the EPA on the draft licence. The EPA has procedures in place so that any objections to a draft licence are addressed by a technical committee comprising EPA staff other than those involved in the preparation of the draft licence. Once the EPA makes its (final) decision on a licence application, the only mechanism by which this decision may be challenged is by way of judicial review.

Infrastructural Projects

Here we would like to investigate how according to environmental and planning law a project that is not as such provided for in the land use plans can be realized.

We can take as an example the construction of a highway of the type indicated in Annex I, point 7, (b), of the EIA Directive.

1. Is there a need to draw up a plan or to review a plan in the sense of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment?

If yes, can you in a concise way give an overview of what this means in terms of procedure, including SEA, public participation, administrative appeal (if any), and time frames?

In the event that a large scale infrastructure project, such as construction of a motorway as indicated in the example above, is not provided for in the current Development Plan for the local authority in whose functional area it is proposed to develop the motorway, then the Development Plan could be varied to make provision for it. Variations of this nature have occurred in practice, and require public consultation. A variation of this nature to a Development Plan may trigger Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) obligations depending on the particular circumstances. If applicable, the SEA procedures make provision for further public participation. There is no provision for an administrative appeal, however, and any decision to vary the Development Plan, or as regards SEA, may only be challenged by way of judicial review in the High Court.

2. Would there be a need to obtain one or more permits to construct and operate the highway mentioned under point II? Is an EIA necessary? Is there a coordination mechanism integrating the substance and procedure of the permits? If appropriate and available, a flow chart could be attached. What are the characteristics of the procedures?

A motorway such as that indicated in the example above is strategic infrastructure development and would require approval from An Bord Pleanála pursuant to PDA section 217B. Essentially, this is an integrated development consent procedure with EIA and Appropriate Assessment (where required) conducted by An Bord Pleanála. There is provision for public participation by way of submissions and observations and oral hearing.

B. Describing and evaluating integration and speed up legislation

Have there been initiatives in your legal order to introduce specific legislation to integrate and speed up decision making for infrastructure projects / industrial installations?

If so:

(a) When was this done?
(b) What was the general justification?
(c) What types of projects does it apply to?
(d) What key aspects of procedure are speeded up? (public participation, greater integration of criteria and procedures to avoid duplication, notification instead of permit requirement, consent by time lapse, stepwise permitting etc.)
(e) Have there been any legal challenges to the changes? (e.g. non-compliance with EU environmental law, Aarhus etc.)
(f) Has there been any evaluation of previous situations and/or the impact of speeding up?

What is your own assessment of integration and speeding up measures?

As explained in the Introduction (above), the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 was designed to streamline the planning process for critical infrastructure projects by providing that applications for permission for such projects must be made directly to An Bord Pleanála, essentially bypassing the local authority stage of the decision-making process. In the case of strategic infrastructure projects, An Bord Pleanála has a statutory objective to determine applications within a period of 18 weeks from the last day of the consultation period for making observations on the application. However, the Board can extend the 18 week period for various stated reasons. As noted earlier above, it is widely acknowledged that the 18 week statutory objective is not realistic given that strategic infrastructure development involves large, complex projects of regional or national importance which generally require an oral hearing.

Pending judicial proceedings

In *Callaghan v An Bord Pleanála* [2015] IEHC 357 (11 June 2015), the High Court dismissed the applicant's application for judicial review wherein he had sought to challenge An Bord Pleanála's decision to designate the proposed application for a wind farm development to be strategic infrastructure development.[10] However, in *Callaghan v An Bord Pleanála* [2015] IEHC 493 (24 July 2015), the High Court subsequently granted the unsuccessful applicant a certificate to bring an appeal to the Court of Appeal on the ground that the following point was a point of law of exceptional public importance and it was desirable in the public interest that an appeal should be taken:

[10] Text of High Court judgment here: http://www.bailii.org/ie/cases/IEHC/2015/H357.html.

> Is the statutory scheme contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, when construed in the light of Sections 50(2) and 143 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 such that it is necessary to read into the scheme a right for interested members of the public to be heard prior to An Bord Pleanála reaching an opinion pursuant to Section 37A of the Planning and Development Act 2000?[11]

At the time of writing, this appeal is pending before the Court of Appeal and is scheduled for hearing in October 2016. The net point that the Court of Appeal will have to determine is essentially whether or not members of the public have a right to be heard before An Bord Pleanála makes a decision as to whether a proposed project should be designated to be strategic infrastructure development.

In *Grace & Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála* [2016] IESCDET 29 (26 February 2016), the Supreme Court granted the applicants leave (permission) to appeal directly to the Supreme Court on a number of points arising from their unsuccessful judicial review proceedings in the High Court.[12] The points on which leave to appeal was granted include whether the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on standing in environmental matters needs to be revised in light of recent judgments of the Court of Justice of the EU, in particular Case-137/14 *Commission v. Germany* EU:C:2015:683. The High Court had determined inter alia that the applicants did not have a 'sufficient interest' so as to give them *locus standi* / standing to bring the application for judicial review. The reason the High Court had ruled against the applicants on the standing issue was because they had failed to raise issues in the course of proceedings before An Bord Pleanála which they subsequently sought to argue in their application for judicial review. The appeal is pending before the Supreme Court at the time of writing.

[11] Text of High Court judgment granting certificate to appeal here: http://www.bailii.org/ie/cases/IEHC/2015/H493.html.

[12] Text of Supreme Court Determination here: http://courts.ie/Judgments.nsf/5c975dd22ad51b5580257db0003d88a2/bca19d8b82ae0f4880257f6a0037202d?OpenDocument. Text of High Court judgment here: http://www.bailii.org/ie/cases/IEHC/2015/H593.html.

Forthcoming developments and recent recommendations for reform

As regards efforts to partially or fully integrate different types of permits, some interesting recommendations are found in the recent report of the Organisational Review of An Bord Pleanála prepared by an Independent Review Group. The An Bord Pleanála Review Group was appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in late summer 2015 and its report was published on 14 March 2016.[13] One of the many recommendations made by the Review Group was that An Bord Pleanála should be the designated authority for collating and co-ordinating the issuing of all consents and decisions required from all relevant public authorities relating to strategic infrastructure developments, including monitoring compliance with time limits. Appropriate legislation and procedures would need to be put in place to enable An Bord Pleanála to fulfil this new function (Review Group Recommendation No. 94). The Review Group also recommended that a dedicated unit (similar to the Planning Inspectorate's Consents Service Unit in the United Kingdom) should be established within An Bord Pleanála to facilitate communication with applicants for permission / consent, other consent authorities, prescribed bodies and local authorities with the aim of improving communication and facilitating interaction (Review Group Recommendation No. 95).

At a more general level, the Environmental Protection Agency Review Group, which reported to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in May 2011, recommended that consideration be given to a wider review of environmental governance in Ireland to identify and address areas of fragmentation and duplication in the context of development consent procedures.[14] This recommendation, which has not been implemented to date, was reiterated recently by the An Bord Pleanála Review Group which reported to the Minister in March 2016 (Review Group Recommendation No. 2).

The draft Maritime Area and Foreshore (Amendment) Bill aims inter alia to align the foreshore consent system with the planning system and to provide for a single EIA for offshore projects. If and when enacted, the Bill will result in decisions on development consent for projects in the 'maritime area' (defined as including the foreshore, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf) being taken within the planning system (i.e. by local planning authorities or An Bord Pleanála depending on the circumstances). Broadly speaking, the Bill aims to provide a more streamlined development consent process for both onshore and offshore elements of strategic infrastructure projects and other projects requiring EIA, with An Bord Pleanála as the consent authority in such cases. It is envisaged that An Bord Pleanála will carry out a single EIA and, where required, a single Appropriate

[13] Text of the Review Group's report available here: http://www.environ.ie/planning/bord-pleanala/review/bord-pleanala-review. **Declaration:** Áine Ryall served as Vice-Chair of the Independent Review Group.

[14] EPA Review Group report available here: http://www.environ.ie/environment/environmental-protection-agency/final-epa-review-report.

Assessment for the purposes of the Habitats directive, thereby reducing the duplication inherent in the current system. As things stand at present, most applications for consent for development on the foreshore are made to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.[15]

C. *Locus standi* for a local government within the permitting procedure

Under what conditions (and whether at all) a local government may file a complaint against an environmental permit for an installation or infrastructure project.

In general, any local authority that can demonstrate a 'sufficient interest' in the matter will have *locus standi* / standing to challenge a planning permission and / or licence by way of judicial review proceedings in the High Court. A local authority, like any member of the public, can complain to the EPA in respect of an installation licensed by it.

D. Further Comments

No further comments.

[15] Following the recent establishment of a minority Government in the wake of the inconclusive general election held in late February 2016, a significant reorganisation of Government Departments is currently underway. At the time of writing, it is not yet clear which particular Government Department will have responsibility for applications for consent for development on the foreshore.

APPENDIX

An Bord Pleanála, Strategic Infrastructure Development Flowchart

Link to flowchart: http://www.pleanala.ie/sid/flowchart.pdf

Source: An Bord Pleanála website, accessed 15 May 2016

Note: This flowchart provides only a *general indication* of the various stages involved in the decision-making process. The procedure may vary depending on the particular type of strategic infrastructure development involved.

Environmental Protection Agency, Summary of Industrial Emissions / Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licensing Process Flowchart

Link to flowchart:

http://epa.ie/pubs/advice/process/industrialemissionsipcprocessflowdiagram.html

Source: Environmental Protection Agency website; accessed 15 May 2016