Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information
IRELAND

Reviewing decisions on the right to Environmental Information

- The role of Commissioner assigned to the holder of the Office of Information Commissioner and assisted by staff of that office
- Legally separate & independent
Appeals received 2009-2017
Exercising the AIE right

- Request in writing to a public authority
- If dissatisfied, request an internal review of the decision within 1 month
- If still dissatisfied, external appeal to Commissioner within 1 month. €50 fee
- If still dissatisfied, appeal to the High Court on a point of law within 2 months
  - Court of Appeal
  - Supreme Court
OCEI

- Established May 2007
- The role of Commissioner is assigned to the holder of the Office of Information Commissioner
- Legally separate & independent
- Art 12(10): “shall be assisted by staff of OIC and other resources as available”
Commissioner’s remit

- Review decisions of public authorities
- Affirm, vary or annul the decision concerned, specifying the reasons
- Where appropriate, require the public authority to make available environmental information
- Enforcement of decisions – no instances of non-compliance to date
Alternatives to formal Binding Decision

- Settlement – facilitate a negotiated solution between public authority and applicant
- In small number of cases, uphold decision that request is unreasonable or too general and encourage new, focussed request