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**CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION AND RECOVERY OF DECISION MAKING ON APPEALS**

In accordance with the Planning Appeals Commission (Decisions on Appeals and Making of Reports) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2006, the decision on an appeal may be made by a single Commissioner or by a panel of not fewer than four Commissioners.

The Chief Commissioner may appoint a panel of Commissioners to decide an appeal in any of the following circumstances:

* The appeal relates to a new or rarely exercised Commission function.
* The appeal raises complex legal considerations.
* The appeal raises significant issues of policy interpretation.
* The proposal raises novel issues of development management.
* The proposal gives rise to substantial public controversy.
* The appeal is linked to another case being considered by the panel.

Judgement will be exercised in all cases in the application of the above criteria.

In all other cases the Chief Commissioner will appoint a single Commissioner to decide an appeal unless the Commissioner is still in training following his or her appointment.

A single decision may be recovered by the Chief Commissioner for decision by a panel of Commissioners at any time before the decision is issued if:

* During the processing of the appeal it becomes apparent that the appeal falls within any of the criteria listed above; or
* Recovery is merited by the particular circumstances of the case.

March 2016