



Declaration

In accordance with Part IV, Section 57 (2) of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000 (as amended).

Louth County Council:

This declaration specifies what works would, or would not, in the opinion of the planning authority materially affect the character of the protected structure, or any element thereof, and, as a result, require planning permission. Under the Act, protection extends to the entire structure including its interior and the land lying within its curtilage. It also extends to any other structures lying within the curtilage of the protected structure, to their interiors and to all fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Where specified in the Record of Protected Structures, protection may also extend to any other feature within the attendant grounds of the protected structure.

Nothing in this declaration exempts works that would not otherwise be exempt from a requirement for planning permission. Changes of use or intensification of the current use may require planning permission. If in doubt, the owner/occupier should consult the planning authority for further advice before commencing any works.

This Declaration may be referred to An Bord Pleanála for review within 4 weeks of its issue, upon payment of the requisite fee in accordance with Part IV, Section 57 (8) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.

|                                         |                                    |                               |                   |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Applicant Name:</b>                  | Dundalk Sub Aqua Search and Rescue |                               |                   |
| <b>Status (i.e. Owner or Occupier):</b> | Occupier                           |                               |                   |
| <b>Date of Request for Declaration:</b> | 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2025       | <b>Date of Inspection:</b>    | N/A               |
| <b>Date of Issue of Declaration:</b>    | 08 <sup>th</sup> October 2025      | <b>Previous Declarations:</b> | No known records. |

|                   |              |                             |     |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| <b>Address:</b>   |              | <b>Location:</b>            |     |
| Name of Building: | Custom House | National Grid co-ordinates: | E N |
| Address 1:        | Quay Street  | O.S. Map Type:              | N/A |
| Address 2:        | Dundalk      | Map Sheet:                  | N/A |
| Address 3:        | Co. Louth    | Site Number:                | N/A |
| Eircode:          | A91 Y208     |                             |     |

**Protection Status:**

Under the Planning  
and development Act  
2000

(as amended)

Record of Protected  
Structures:

**Y / N**

Y ✓

N

**Details:**

D261

Architectural

Conservation Area:

Y

N ✓

Under the Planning  
and development Act  
2000

(as amended)

Record of Monuments  
and Places:

Y

N ✓

Zone of

Archaeological

potential:

Y

N ✓

Preservation Order or  
Temporary P.O.:

Y

N ✓

NIAH Registration No. (if applicable):

13618006

## Introduction:

The referrer has sought a Section 57 Declaration as per the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in respect of works to be carried out to the roof of a storage shed located at Custom House, Quay Street Dundalk. A copy of the site location is included below.

Figure 1: Site Location

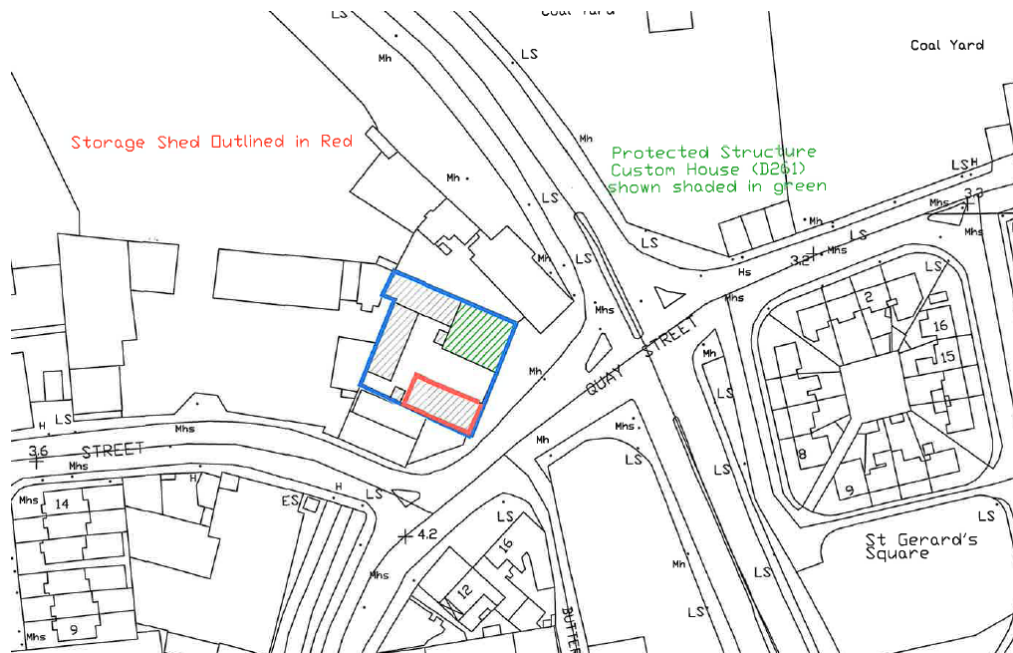


Figure 2: Description of the Protected Structure as per NBHS

Dundalk Custom House, Quay Street, TOWNPARKS (Upper Dundalk By.), Dundalk, LOUTH



View on map

## Survey Data

Reg No 13706002

Rating Regional

Categories of Special Interest Architectural, Social

Previous Name Dundalk Custom House

Original Use Custom house

Date 1800 - 1805

Coordinates 305743, 307573

Date Recorded 10/08/2005

Date Updated --/--/--

*Figures 3: Side elevation of the protected structure, with limited view of the shed structure located to the rear.*



Figure 4: Shows the existing storage shed located to the rear of the protected structure.



### Protection Status:

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, as varied. The subject building is included within the RPS under record no. D261 and is described as: *“single storey three bay custom house, with side to street. Set along northern edge of yard with single storey buildings to west and south; bounded to east by painted smooth rendered walling, limestone coping, painted metal sheeted gates, square-headed door opening to south, channelled render surround surmounted by limestone cornice and parapet bearing inscription “CUSTOM HOUSE 1803”, painted metal sheeted door; former railway station to north”.*

**RPS Appraisal** – *“Highlights Dundalk’s historic importance as a port and transit point. The retention of much original fabric such as the sash windows and attractive fanlight add to the building’s significance. The well-crafted gateway with parapet inscription is notable.”*

### Planning History:

The subject building is recorded within the National Built Heritage Service’s NIAH Survey data (Reg no. 13706002) which refers to the building’s name as ‘Dundalk Custom Hosue’ and its original use as a ‘custom house’ and current use as a ‘storage shed’ associated with Dundak Sub Aqua Search and Rescue.

The following planning history is associated with the building:

- **11520111** – Grant – retention permission for the removal of front boundary wall, widening of entrance and installation of wider gate.

### Description of the Structure:

The **NIAH** description of this regionally important property is as follows:

*“Attached three-bay single-storey custom house, dated 1803, currently unoccupied. Square-plan, attached to outbuilding to west. Double-pile hipped slate roofs, clay ridge and hip tiles, unpainted smooth rendered flat-capped chimneystacks, cast-iron gutters on painted smooth rendered corbelled eaves course, circular cast-iron downpipes. Painted smooth rendered ruled-and-lined walling to east elevation, smooth rendered walling to north and south elevations, channelled straight quoins to north-east corner. Square-headed window openings, tooled stone sills, painted timber six-over-six sliding sash windows, painted wrought-iron window guards to south. Round-headed door opening to south elevation, pedimented smooth rendered raised surround, painted timber four-panel door, moulded timber cornice, sunbeam fanlight. Set along northern edge of yard with single-storey buildings to west and south; bounded to east by painted smooth rendered walling, limestone coping, painted metal*

*sheeted gates, square-headed door opening to south, channelled render surround surmounted by limestone cornice and parapet bearing inscription "CUSTOM HOUSE 1803", painted metal sheeted door; former railway station to north".*

The **NIAH** appraisal of this property further states:

*"This former custom house and its associated buildings is part of an important group of buildings, along with the former railway station, highlighting Dundalk's historic importance as a port and transit point. The retention of much original fabric such as the sash windows and attractive fanlight adds to the building's significance. The well-crafted gateway with crisp parapet inscription is a notable feature within the streetscape and enhances the otherwise simple, functional design of the building.."*

### **Referral Question:**

This request pertains to the replacement roof of the storage shed facility, which lies within the curtilage of the protected structure. The storage shed itself is not a protected structure.

### **Legislative Provision:**

Section 57(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, states:

*"Notwithstanding Sections 4(1)(h) and any regulations made under Section 4(2), the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or proposed protected structure shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of:*

- a) the structure; or*
- b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest."*

Section 68 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, stipulates that the carrying out of any works specified in a notice under section 59 (1) or 60 (2) shall be exempted development.

### **Assessment:**

The proposed works relate to works to a storage shed within the curtilage of the protected structure (note the structure does not lie in an Architectural Conservation Area).

The applicant states that the previous galvanised roof covering, which was in a bad state and red in colour, blew off during a storm and the roof covering has since been removed off site. The applicant is proposing to cover the structure with new Kingspan insulated roof panels.

Figure 5: Storage shed in its current form.





Figure 6: Proposed finishing material for the new roof



Having regard to the fact that the storage shed previously featured a galvanised roof finish, it is considered that the use of Kingspan panels is acceptable. The Planning Officer notes that the structure currently does not have any roof covering, therefore, a new roof will be an improvement on the overall aesthetic of the building, and the setting of Custom house protected structure as a whole.

### **Conclusion:**

Having regard to the existing condition of the building and its previous finishing materials, it is considered that the proposal for a new roof comprising of Kingspan sheeting are exempted development and would not materially alter the visual appearance or character of the protected structure.

### **Recommendation:**

I hereby recommend that a declaration of Exemption be issued for the proposed works, for the reason(s) set out hereunder:

**WHEREAS** the question has arisen as to whether the internal and external restoration works would or would not materially affect the character of the protected structure or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest at Custom House, Quay Street, Dundalk.

**AND WHEREAS** Dundalk Sub Aqua Search and Rescue has requested a declaration on the question from Louth County Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2025.

**AND WHEREAS** Louth County Council in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –

- a) Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act, 2024,
- b) Section 3 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- c) Section 4 (1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
- d) Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended,
- e) The Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities,
- f) The special interest pertaining to the protected structure in question and,
- g) The nature and extent of works set out in the referral question.

**AND WHEREAS** Louth County Council has concluded that -

- (i) the stated works to the protected structure comprise of works and are, therefore, development, and
- (ii) the stated works would not materially affect the character of the structure, or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest,
- (iii) the stated works would consist of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement and alteration of this structure which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures

**NOW THEREFORE** Louth County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, hereby decides that the internal works and replacement external doors as detailed in this application to the property at Custom House, Quay Street, Dundalk A91 Y208 as detailed above, **constitutes development that is exempted development.**

**Any further documentation attached (maps, photographs, sketches, notes etc.)?**

- Declaration Form
- Cover letter
- Site location map
- Photographs of the site
- Details of proposed finishing materials.





**Signed by Inspector**

**Signed by Planning Authority Officer**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Conlon'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Turlough King'.

Helen Conlon, Executive Planner

Turlough King, A/Senior Planner

**Date**

**Date**

08<sup>th</sup> October 2025

8<sup>th</sup> October 2025