To gauge an understanding of how boundaries are perceived by landowners in Ireland

By

Daragh O’Brien
Department of Spatial Information Sciences

Overview

• Research Background
• Project Objectives
• Research Methodology
• Survey Results
• Conclusion
Research Background

Why is this research being conducted?

- Geomatics – Department of Spatial Information Sciences
- Previous Undergraduate Thesis: “That accurate measurement is a prerequisite for the avoidance of disputes”
- Frequent occurrence of Boundary Disputes cases in Courts

Project Objectives

- Quantify the incidence & types of boundary disputes
- Proposals & suggestions to minimize boundary dispute litigation & improve neighbour relations
- Quantify the true financial cost of boundary disputes to the parties involved & the State
- Examine other countries to see is there a relationship between:
  - High surveying standards & a low numbers of disputes
  - Low surveying standards & a high number of disputes
Research Methodology

Questionnaire to Landowners on Boundaries

- To gauge how landowners perceived & understand their property boundaries
- Urban & Rural
- Electronic & Paper
- Conducted from July to November 2010
- Total respondents: 86
Validity of Results

- Minimum sample sizes were computed to ensure results had a confidence level of 90% within a margin of ±10%
- Responses represent Landowners, not the general public

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questionnaire</th>
<th>Population Size</th>
<th>Required sample for ±10% Error Margin</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Sampling Error to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1,035,000</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>±13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1,035,000</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>±13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,035,000</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>±8.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents
Registered Property

Urban
- Land Registry: 67%
- Registry of Deeds: 13%
- Don't Know: 20%

Rural
- Land Registry: 61%
- Registry of Deeds: 18%
- Don't Know: 21%

Understanding of Non-Conclusive Boundaries

Urban
- No: 60%
- Yes: 33%
- Unsure: 7%

Rural
- No: 57%
- Yes: 28%
- Unsure: 15%
## Boundary Related Issues

### Urban
- No: 65%
- Yes: 32%
- Unsure: 3%

### Rural
- No: 62%
- Yes: 38%

---

## Other Issues from Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boundaries Checked Before Purchase of Land/Property</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who to turn to in Resolving Disputes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Profession</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Surveyors</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbours/Family</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where to Access Boundary Information</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Registry</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Profession</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registry of Deeds</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Conclusion…

- Better communication needed to Landowners
- Does Ireland need a better boundary system?
- Need to identify issues causing disputes
- Next questionnaire on collecting details on Boundary Disputes cases

Go raibh milé maith agaibh!!