

Highways Agency Performance Specification 2013-14 – Technical Note

Field	Notes
Short Title	Average Response Time to Planning Application Consultations.
Performance Specification	Output 2 - PS 2.9a
Requirement / Output Details	<p>The network operator should report on the following measures to provide further transparency of performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The average time taken to respond to planning applications.
Technical Definition	The average final response time to planning application consultations based on the median average number of days for final responses sent.
Rationale	It is a key indicator of our performance in responding promptly to planning application consultations.
Formula	<p>The average final response time to planning application consultations based on the median average (50th percentile) number of days for final responses to be sent following receipt of those consultations.</p> <p>E.g. - If an application was received on 1st January 2013 and received a final response on the 21st January 2013 the response time would be 20 days. If there were 11 applications responded to in month, with the following response times:- 11,15,20,21,22,22,23,23,50,100,120 the average (median) response time would be 22 days.</p>
Start Date	Figures are available going back to April 2010.
Performance	<p>The statutory target for the Highways Agency to respond to planning consultations involving direct access to the Strategic Road Network is 28 days. However, a self-imposed target of 21 days has been adopted which is the same period as the statutory target for responding to other discretionary consultations referred to the Agency.</p> <p>Performance should generally be some days less than 21 days, which is the target for all first responses i.e. an average even approaching 21 days would indicate higher risks of not meeting the 21 day target for first response. Currently, around 7-8% of first responses are holding directions which allow application/information issue resolution before a final response is sent, so whilst most final responses are within 21 days, some final responses are outside that, and this average response time figure includes these. In 2012/13, the monthly average response time varied between 8-13 days.</p>

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Behavioural Impact	Positive in that trend information, particularly regionally, can indicate a higher risk of not meeting the 21 day target, necessitating management action.
Comparability	Already used to compare HA NDD Regional Divisions internally, but could potentially be used to compare against response times of other statutory consultees to the planning process.
Collection Frequency	Monthly, in the Monthly National Planning Report, and in the Annual National Planning Report produced in July each year.
Clearance Process	Monthly through NDD Regional Director lead for Planning, and then through all NDD Directors and Board Director, before release outside Agency for monthly report. For Annual Report, similar, but also through NetServ planning policy team.
Time Lag	One month.
Data Source	Development Control Database (accessed via HAMIS general tab).
Type of Data	Management data. Stems from manually inputted date of receipt of planning application consultation, and manually inputted date of response, which is then drawn down into the Monthly National Planning Report to automatically produce an average figure.
Robustness and Data Limitations	Relies on correct dates being manually entered.
Collecting Organisation	Highways Agency (NDD).
Return Format	Median number of days.
Geographical Coverage	England.
How Indicator Can be Broken Down	Monthly breakdown via NDD Regional boundaries is also done. Trends over previous 12 months are also shown.