



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# Planning Applications: July to September 2013 England

Between July and September 2013 district level planning authorities in England:

- decided 114,000 planning applications, 3 per cent higher than in the same quarter in the previous year;
- granted 93,500 permissions, 4 per cent higher than in the same quarter in 2012;
- granted 88 per cent of applications, compared with 87 per cent in the same quarter in 2012;
- and decided 10 per cent more residential decisions compared to the September quarter 2012, with numbers of major decisions (10 or more dwellings) up by 42 per cent.

In the year ending September 2013, district level planning authorities:

- decided 422,000 planning applications, a decrease of 2 per cent compared to the figure for the year to September 2012;
- granted 346,400 permissions, a decrease of 1 per cent compared to the figure for the year to September 2012;
- granted 88 per cent of decisions, an increase of 1 percentage point when compared to the previous year;
- decided 62 per cent of major applications in 13 weeks compared with 56 per cent in the previous year;
- decided 69 per cent of minor applications and 83 per cent of others in 8 weeks compared with 69 per cent and 81 per cent respectively in the previous year;
- and decided 6 per cent more residential decisions compared to the previous year, with major residential decisions up by 26 per cent.



## Planning *Statistical Release*

19 December 2013

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**Date of next publication:**

March 2014

# Introduction

This Statistical Release presents National Statistics on authorities that undertake district and county level planning activities in England. It covers information on planning applications received and decided including decisions on applications for residential developments (dwellings) and enforcement activities. Data are provided at national and local authority level and are based on information reported as at 14th November 2013. The *Definitions* section provides more detail of the terms used within this release.

## Authorities undertaking district level planning

A summary of the trends in applications, decisions and permissions granted is provided in Table 1. The number of applications, decisions and permissions at district level in this publication is given to the nearest hundred; more detailed figures are available in the accompanying Live Tables (P120-P138).

### Planning applications

In July to September 2013, authorities undertaking district level planning in England received 118,300 applications for planning permission. This represents an increase of 4 per cent compared with the corresponding quarter in 2012. In the year ending September 2013, authorities received 463,000 planning applications, a decrease of 1% compared to the year ending September 2012. **(Table P120)**

### Planning decisions

In July to September 2013, authorities decided 114,000 planning applications, 3 per cent higher than in the same quarter in the previous year. In the year ending September 2013 authorities decided 422,000 planning applications, a decrease of 2% compared to the year ending September 2012. **(Tables P123/P124)**

### Applications granted

In July to September 2013, authorities granted 93,500 permissions, 4 per cent higher than in the same quarter in 2012. Authorities granted 88 per cent of all decisions, an increase of 1 percentage point when compared to the September quarter 2012. Overall, 85 per cent of major and minor decisions were granted. **(Tables P123/P131)**

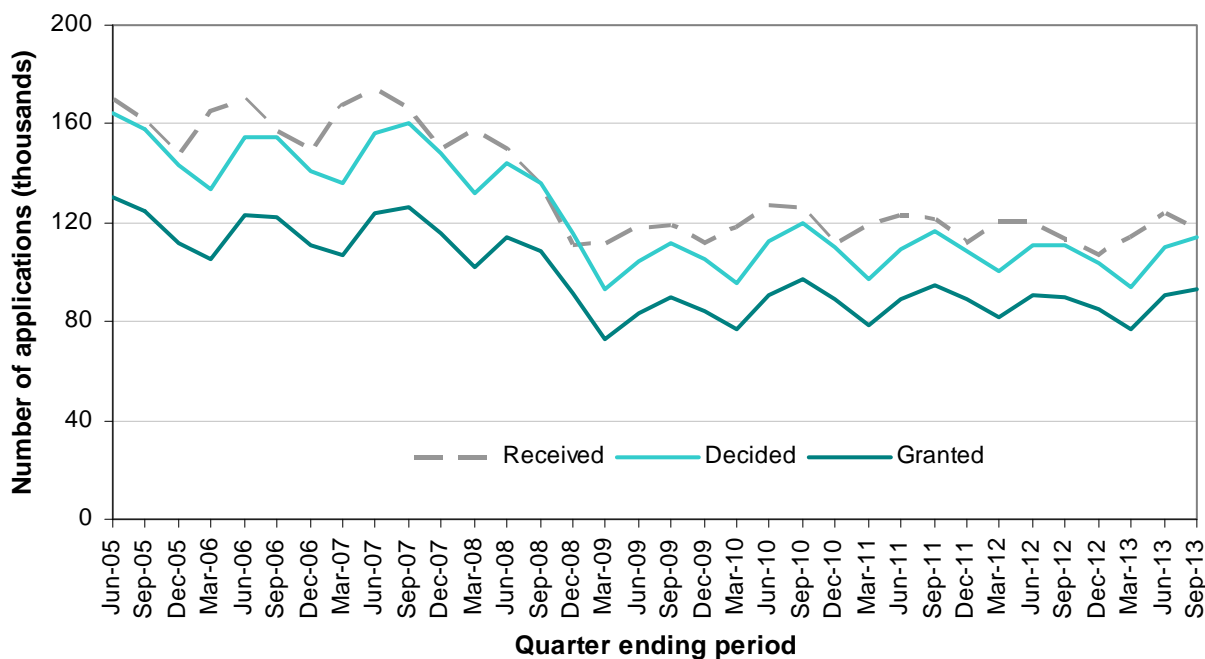
Over the 12 months to September 2013, 346,400 applications were granted, 1 per cent lower than in the year to September 2012. Authorities granted 88 per cent of all decisions in the year to September 2013, an increase of 1 percentage point when compared to the year to September 2012. Overall, 85 per cent of major and minor decisions were granted. **(Tables P124/P132)**

**Table 1: District level planning applications received, decided and granted**

Financial Year	Quarter	Received		Decided		Granted <sup>1</sup>	
		Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year
2005-06	Jun	170	-8%	164	-5%	130	-6%
	Sep	161	-8%	158	-11%	125	-11%
	Dec	147	-8%	143	-8%	112	-9%
	Mar	165	-3%	134	-4%	105	-5%
2006-07	Jun	170	0%	155	-5%	123	-5%
	Sep	157	-2%	155	-2%	122	-2%
	Dec	149	1%	141	-1%	111	-1%
	Mar	168	2%	136	1%	107	3%
2007-08	Jun	174	2%	156	1%	124	1%
	Sep	166	6%	160	3%	126	2%
	Dec	151	1%	148	5%	116	5%
	Mar	158	-6%	132	-3%	102	-5%
2008-09	Jun	150	-14%	144	-8%	114	-8%
	Sep	135	-19%	136	-15%	108	-14%
	Dec	111	-26%	116	-22%	91	-21%
	Mar	111	-29%	93	-29%	73	-28%
2009-10	Jun	118	-21%	105	-27%	84	-27%
	Sep	119	-12%	112	-18%	90	-17%
	Dec	111	0%	105	-9%	85	-7%
	Mar	118	6%	96	3%	77	5%
2010-11	Jun	127	8%	113	8%	91	9%
	Sep	126	6%	120	7%	97	8%
	Dec	111	-1%	110	5%	89	5%
	Mar	120	1%	97	1%	78	2%
2011-12	Jun	123	-3%	110	-3%	89	-2%
	Sep	122	-4%	117	-3%	95	-3%
	Dec	112	1%	109	-2%	89	0%
	Mar	121	1%	100	4%	82	4%
2012-13	Jun	121	-2%	111	1%	90	1%
	Sep	113	-7%	111	-5%	90	-5%
	Dec	107	-5%	104	-4%	85	-4%
	Mar	114	-6%	94	-6%	77	-5%
2013-14	Jun	124	3%	110	-1%	91	1%
	Sept	118	4%	114	3%	93	4%
Year to Sept 2012		467.1		430.2		350.8	
Year to Sept 2013		462.9	-1%	422.0	-2%	346.4	-1%

<sup>1</sup> Excludes planning applications which can neither be granted nor refused.  
 Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.  
 Percentages are calculated using unrounded figures.

**Figure 1: Number of planning applications received, decided and granted by district authorities**



### Speed of decisions

In July to September 2013, 69 per cent of major applications were processed within 13 weeks, compared with 57 per cent in the September quarter 2012. Also, 71 per cent of minor applications and 83 per cent of other applications were processed within 8 weeks, compared with 67 per cent and 80 per cent respectively for the quarter ending September 2012. **(Table P123)**. District level planning authorities decided 65 per cent of large-scale major applications, and 70 per cent of small-scale major applications within 13 weeks compared with 50 per cent and 58 per cent respectively for the quarter ending September 2012. Also, 92 per cent of all major decisions were within 52 weeks, unchanged compared to the previous year. **(Table P125)**.

In the year ending September 2013, 62 per cent of major applications were processed within 13 weeks, compared with 56 per cent in the year ending September 2012. Also, 69 per cent of minor applications and 83 per cent of other applications were processed within 8 weeks compared with 69 per cent and 81 per cent respectively in the year ending September 2012. **(Table P124)**. District level planning authorities decided 57 per cent of large-scale major applications, and 63 per cent of small-scale major applications within 13 weeks compared with 48 per cent and 59 per cent respectively in the year ending September 2012. Also 91 per cent of all major decisions were within 52 weeks, unchanged compared to the previous year **(Table P126)**.

**Table 151a** presents data on the performance of local planning authorities against the [published criteria](#) for assessing performance under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

## Residential Decisions

In July to September 2013, there were 13,800 decisions on applications for residential developments, compared with around 12,500 decisions in the September quarter 2012, an increase of 10 per cent. The number of major residential decisions increased by 42% from 1,200 decisions in the September quarter 2012 to 1,700 decisions, while minor residential decisions increased by 7 per cent to 12,100 decisions. Authorities granted 82 per cent of major residential applications, an increase of 1 percentage point from the September quarter 2012, and determined 63 per cent of them within 13 weeks, up from 44 per cent in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Authorities granted 76 per cent of decisions on minor residential applications and determined 62 per cent within 8 weeks, compared with 73 per cent and 58 per cent respectively in the September quarter 2012. **(Table P123)**.

In the year to September 2013, residential decisions increased by 6 per cent from 49,500 in the 12 months to September 2012 to 52,600 decisions. The number of major decisions increased by 26 per cent from 5,000 to 6,300 decisions while minor residential decisions increased by 4 per cent from 44,500 to 46,300 decisions. Authorities granted 82 per cent of major residential applications, compared with 83 per cent in the year ending September 2012, and determined 54 per cent of them within 13 weeks, up from 46 per cent in the previous year. Authorities granted 75 per cent of decisions on minor residential applications and determined 61 per cent within 8 weeks, unchanged compared with the previous year. **(Table P124)**.

## Historical context

The number of applications received in the September quarter 2013 decreased by 5 per cent compared to the June quarter, while the number of applications decided increased by 4 per cent and the number granted increased by 4 per cent in the September quarter 2013 compared to the June quarter. The percentage of applications granted stood at 88% in the September quarter 2013. At the same time, the percentage of major applications decided in 13 weeks has declined since Q3 2009-10, when it stood at 71 per cent, although it has shown an improvement from the 53 per cent level recorded in the March quarter 2012 and is at its highest level for more than two years. Note that this indicator can be volatile, and stood at just 43 per cent in 2002-03. The speed of decisions for minors and other applications have also fallen over the same period although not as quickly or steeply as that of major decisions.

## Householder Developments

Householder developments are those developments to a house which require planning permission such as extensions, loft conversions, conservatories, and so on. The number of decisions on householder developments increased by less than 1 per cent from 49,700 decisions in the September quarter 2012 to 49,800 decisions in the corresponding quarter in 2013 (when they accounted for 44 per cent of all decisions). Authorities granted 90 per cent and decided 85 per cent within 8 weeks, compared with 89 per cent and 83 per cent respectively in July to September 2012. **(Table P123)**.

In the year ending September 2013, the number of householder developments decided fell by 3 per cent from 189,500 decisions in the previous year to 184,000 decisions (accounting for 44 per cent of all decisions). Authorities granted 90 per cent and decided 86 per cent within 8 weeks, compared with 89 per cent and 84 per cent respectively in the year to September 2012 (**Table P124**).

### **Planning Applications for Traveller Pitches**

In the year ending September 2013, authorities determined 40 major applications for traveller pitches. Authorities granted 75 per cent of the major applications and determined 63 per cent within 13 weeks. Also, authorities determined 260 minor applications on traveller pitches. Authorities granted 58 per cent of the minor applications and 37 per cent were determined within 8 weeks (**Table P138**).

### **Enforcement action**

In the September quarter 2013, authorities issued 1,082 Enforcement Notices and served 1,216 Planning Contravention Notices, 162 Breach of Condition Notices, 50 Stop Notices and 61 Temporary Stop Notices, while 5 Enforcement Injunctions and no Temporary Injunctions were granted by the High/County Court (**Table P127**).

### **Regulation 3 and 4 consents**

In the September 2013 quarter, 585 Regulation 3 consents and 34 Regulation 4 consents were granted (**Table P128**).

### **Applications for determination**

Authorities received 4,158 applications for determination on whether local authority approval was required for certain works in the September quarter 2013 (**Table P128**). Local authorities decided to intervene in 388 cases (9 per cent).

### **Applications decided under delegated powers**

**Table P133/P134** show the percentage of applications decided by planning officers under a scheme of delegation and without referral to committee or councillors on such decisions. In the September quarter 2013 authorities delegated 91 per cent of decisions to planning officers. In the year ending September 2013 authorities also delegated 91 per cent of decisions to planning officers.

# Authorities undertaking county level planning

Authorities that undertake county level planning activity – which includes counties, unitary authorities, London boroughs, metropolitan districts, urban development corporations and National Parks - received around 1,505 ‘county matters’ applications in the year ending September 2013. This compares with around 463,000 planning applications received by authorities that undertake district level planning activities. Statistics for ‘county matters’ decisions are therefore likely to be much more volatile than those for districts because of the smaller numbers of such decisions.

Summary statistics on numbers of applications, decisions and permissions granted are shown in Table 2. More detailed figures are in the accompanying Live Tables (P139 - P150).

## Planning applications

In the September quarter 2013, authorities received 374 ‘county matter’ applications, a decrease of 15 per cent compared with the same quarter last year. County councils accounted for 74 per cent of total applications, unitary authorities for 17 per cent and metropolitan districts for 26 per cent (**Table P139**). The highest number of applications was received by Lincolnshire (23 applications). (**Table P143**).

In the year ending September 2013, authorities received 1,505 ‘county matter’ applications. County councils accounted for 76 per cent of total applications, unitary authorities for 16 per cent and metropolitan districts for 7 per cent. The highest number of applications was received by Lincolnshire (76 applications) (**Table P144**).

## Planning decisions

County matter authorities determined 319 planning applications in the September quarter 2013, a decrease of 14 per cent on the number of decisions made in the same quarter last year. Of these, 97 per cent were granted, a 3 percentage point increase when compared with the same quarter last year (**Table P139**). Leicestershire determined the highest number of planning applications (25 applications) (**Table P143**). 195 major (as defined in the notes for completing the Department’s CPS1/CPS2 planning statistics returns) planning applications were determined in the September quarter 2013, a decrease of 8 per cent on the number of decisions made in the same quarter last year (**Table 143a**). Waste developments accounted for 61 per cent of the total decisions and minerals developments accounted for 39 per cent (**Table P140**).

In the year ending September 2013, county matter authorities determined 1,370 planning applications, a decrease of 11 per cent on the number in the 12 months to September 2012. Of these, 95 per cent were granted. Lincolnshire determined the highest number of planning applications (76 applications decided) (**Table P144**). 723 major planning applications were determined, a decrease of 15 per cent on the number in the 12 months to September 2012 (**Table 144a**). Waste developments accounted for 66 per cent of the total decisions and minerals

developments accounted for 28 per cent (**Table P141**).

## Speed of decisions

In the September quarter 2013, county-level planning authorities determined 66 per cent of applications within 13 weeks (**Table P143**), and determined 61 per cent of major planning applications within 13 weeks (**Table 143a**). In the year ending September 2013, county-level planning authorities determined 60 per cent of applications within 13 weeks (**Table P144**), and determined 54 per cent of major planning applications within 13 weeks (**Table 144a**). This indicator can be volatile due to the small number of county-level applications.

**Table 151b** presents data on the performance of 'county matter' planning authorities against the [published criteria](#) for assessing performance under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

## Regulation 3 and 4 consents

**Table P143** and **P144** show the number of permissions granted by authorities under Regulations 3 and 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992. In the September quarter 2013, a total of 464 Regulation 3 consents were granted by county level planning authorities. The highest number of Regulation 3 consents was granted by Gloucestershire (40 consents). In the year ending September 2013, a total of 1,550 Regulation 3 and 11 Regulation 4 consents were granted. The highest number of Regulation 3 consents was granted by Lancashire (108 consents).

In the September quarter 2013, 431 decisions were made under Article 21, with the highest number reported by Northamptonshire (49 decisions). The number of determinations under the review of mineral planning permissions was also collated, however only 10 were determined by county level planning authorities.

In the year ending September 2013, 1,486 decisions were made under Article 21, with the highest number reported by Essex (145 decisions). The number of determinations under the review of mineral planning permissions was also collated, however only 35 were determined by county level planning authorities.

## Enforcement action

In the quarter to September 2013 county level planning authorities issued 13 Enforcement Notices, served no Stop Notices and 10 Temporary Stop Notices, 22 Planning Contravention Notices and 4 Breach of Condition Notices. (**Table P145**).



**Table 2: County level planning applications received, decided and granted**

Financial Year	Quarter	Planning Applications		Planning Decisions		Applications Granted	
		Number	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number	% change on corresponding quarter last year
2005-06	Jun	466	-14%	390	-3%	353	-4%
	Sep	510	-6%	416	-17%	375	-19%
	Dec	398	-22%	458	-1%	417	0%
	Mar	483	-7%	419	-1%	386	0%
2006-07	Jun	450	-3%	416	7%	376	7%
	Sep	448	-12%	389	-6%	347	-7%
	Dec	441	11%	399	-13%	349	-16%
	Mar	466	-4%	387	-8%	363	-6%
2007-08	Jun	464	3%	393	-6%	364	-3%
	Sep	446	0%	375	-4%	348	0%
	Dec	444	1%	389	-3%	357	2%
	Mar	473	2%	341	-12%	317	-13%
2008-09	Jun	392	-16%	374	-5%	344	-13%
	Sep	439	-2%	379	1%	347	0%
	Dec	405	-9%	361	-7%	334	-6%
	Mar	431	-9%	393	15%	358	13%
2009-10	Jun	355	-9%	313	-16%	293	-15%
	Sep	406	-8%	336	-11%	304	-12%
	Dec	406	0%	376	4%	343	3%
	Mar	408	-5%	312	-21%	294	-18%
2010-11	Jun	355	0%	314	0%	291	-1%
	Sep	400	-1%	299	-11%	275	-10%
	Dec	433	5%	319	-18%	295	-17%
	Mar	415	-3%	374	16%	340	13%
2011-12	Jun	399	12%	357	14%	334	15%
	Sep	455	14%	348	16%	326	19%
	Dec	427	-1%	410	29%	386	31%
	Mar	469	13%	345	-8%	321	-6%
2012-13	Jun	385	-4%	410	15%	384	15%
	Sep	441	-3%	370	6%	348	7%
	Dec	395	-7%	389	-5%	366	-5%
	Mar	349	-26%	335	-3%	318	-1%
2013-14	Jun	387	1%	327	-20%	312	-19%
	Sep	374	-15%	319	-14%	310	-11%
Year to Sept 2012		1,722		1,535		1,439	
Year to Sept 2013		1,505	-13%	1,370	-11%	1,306	-9%

# Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. These are:

<b>P120</b>	District planning authorities – Planning applications received and decided by speed of decision
<b>P121/P122</b>	District planning authorities - Planning decisions by type of authority and speed of decision
<b>P123/P124</b>	District planning authorities – Planning decisions by speed, performance agreements and type of development
<b>P124A</b>	District planning authorities – Planning decisions by development type and authority
<b>P125/P126</b>	District planning authorities – Major planning decisions by speed, performance agreements and type of development
<b>P127</b>	District planning authorities – Enforcement action
<b>P128</b>	District planning authorities – Regulation 3 and 4 consents granted and applications for determination
<b>P129/P130</b>	District planning authorities – Enforcement action by authority
<b>P131/P132</b>	District planning authorities – Planning decisions, by development type, speed of decision and authority
<b>P133/P134</b>	District planning authorities – Applications received, decided, granted and delegated, environmental statements received and flow of applications by authority
<b>P135/P136</b>	District planning authorities – Planning decisions on Major and Minor residential development by authority
<b>P137/P138</b>	District planning authorities – Planning decisions on Major and Minor Gypsy and Traveller Pitches by authority
<b>P139</b>	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning applications received, decided and granted by type of authority
<b>P140/P141</b>	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning decisions decided and granted by type of authority and type and size of development
<b>P142</b>	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning decisions by speed of decision
<b>P143/P144</b>	'County matter' planning authorities – Planning applications received, decided and granted and Regulation 3 and 4 consents by authority
<b>P143a/P144a</b>	'County matter' planning authorities – Major planning applications received, decided and granted
<b>P145</b>	'County matter' planning authorities – Enforcement action
<b>P146</b>	'County matters' planning authorities – Decisions on minerals applications by type of development
<b>P147</b>	'County matters' planning authorities – Decisions on waste planning applications by type of development
<b>P148</b>	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning decisions decided and granted by nature of site, type of development and nature of application
<b>P149</b>	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning decisions by speed, size of site and type of development

<b>P150</b>	'County matters' planning authorities – Reasons given for decisions taking over 8 weeks
<b>P151a</b>	District Planning Authorities Performance Table for Speed of decisions
<b>P151b</b>	'County Matters' Planning Authorities Performance Table for Speed of decisions

These tables can be accessed at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>

## Definitions

District level planning is undertaken by metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities, national park authorities and urban development corporations. These authorities deal with all other planning applications that are not classified as county matters and mainly include applications for planning permissions on residential, offices, industrial, retail and householder developments.

### **Largescale Major Developments**

For dwellings, a largescale major development is one where the number of residential units to be constructed is 200 or more. Where the number of residential units to be constructed is not given in the application a site area of 4 hectares or more should be used as the definition of a largescale major development. For all other uses a largescale major development is one where the floor space to be built is 10,000 square metres or more, or where the site area is 2 hectares or more.

### **Smallscale Major Developments**

For dwellings, a smallscale major development is one where the number of residential units to be constructed is between 10 and 199 (inclusive). Where the number of dwellings to be constructed is not given in the application a site area of 0.5 hectare and less than 4 hectares should be used as the definition of a smallscale major development. For all other uses a smallscale major development is one where the floor space to be built is 1,000 square metres and up to 9,999 square metres or where the site area is 1 hectare and less than 2 hectares.

### **Minor Developments**

For dwellings, minor development is one where the number of dwellings to be constructed is between 1 and 9 inclusive. Where the number of dwellings to be constructed is not given in the application, a site area of less than 0.5 hectares should be used as the definition of a minor development. For all other uses, a minor development is one where the floor space to be built is less than 1,000 square metres or where the site area is less than 1 hectare.

Decisions are classified as relating to a Major/Minor Development on the basis of the development covered by the application which was decided.

## Use categories

Decisions relating to largescale major, smallscale major or minor developments are classified by reference to the principal use within the development (i.e. the use on which other uses are considered to depend). Normally this is the one which accounts for the greater proportion of the new floorspace (although in certain cases the principal use will be one that does not account for any floorspace as such).

If there is any doubt as to the principal use in a multi-storey block the ground floor use is taken as the principal one. (This rule would apply where, for example, the amounts of floorspace taken up by two different uses were approximately equal). Proposed developments are classified on the basis of the principal use and not that of the complex of which they are part. Thus a development involving the construction of offices within the curtilage of a general industrial site would be classified as 'Offices/Research and Development/Light Industry'. Similarly, a dance-floor extension to a restaurant would be classified as 'All other minor developments' and not to 'Retail, distribution and servicing'.

## Change of Use

Many developments involve some change of land use but a decision is only classified as 'Change of Use' if:

- (i) the application does not concern a major development; and
- (ii) no building or engineering work is involved; or
- (iib) the building or engineering work would be permitted development were it not for the fact that the development involved a change of use (such as the removal of internal dividing walls in a dwelling house to provide more spacious accommodation for office use).

## Householder Developments

Householder developments are defined as those within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse which require an application for planning permission and are not a change of use. **Included** in householder developments are extensions, conservatories, loft conversions, dormer windows, alterations, garages, car ports or outbuildings, swimming pools, walls, fences, domestic vehicular accesses including footway crossovers, porches and satellite dishes. **Excluded** from householder developments are: applications relating to any work to one or more flats, applications to change the number of dwellings (flat conversions, building a separate house in the garden), changes of use to part or all of the property to non-residential (including business) uses, or anything outside the garden of the property (including stables if in a separate paddock).

## Advertisements

Decisions on applications for consent to display advertisements under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 (as amended).

## Listed building consents

Decisions by the district planning authority on:

- (i) applications for listed building consent to extend and/or alter under section 8 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; and

(ii) applications for listed building consent to demolish under section 8 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

### **Conservation Area Consents**

Decisions on applications for conservation area consent under section 74 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

### **Certificates of lawful development and certificates of appropriate alternative development**

These include all decisions relating to:

- (a) applications for certificates of lawful development;
- (b) applications for certificates of appropriate alternative development

### **Notifications**

These include all decisions relating to notifications under Circular 14/90 (electricity generating stations and overhead lines), applications by the British Coal Corporation under Class A, Part 21 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) and other notifications.

### **Enforcement activity**

Local planning authorities have discretionary powers to take formal enforcement action if, in their view, an unacceptable breach of planning control has occurred. Where it is necessary to stop a breach immediately, the authority may issue a Temporary Stop Notice. This will halt development for 28 days while the alleged breach is investigated and further enforcement action is considered, without the need for the authority to issue an associated enforcement notice.

The authority may issue an Enforcement Notice requiring the alleged breach to be remedied. If an authority considers that any activity alleged in an Enforcement Notice should cease before the end of the specified compliance period, they may serve a Stop Notice prohibiting continuation of that activity.

Where conditional planning permission has been granted for a development of land and there has been a failure to comply with one or more of the conditions, an authority may serve a Breach of Condition Notice on any person who is carrying out or has carried out development, or anyone having control of the land, requiring compliance with the conditions specified in the notice.

### **Regulation 3 and 4 consents**

Under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992, SI 1992/1492, a local planning authority makes an application to itself for permission to develop land within its area, and determines that application. Regulation 4 is concerned with planning permission for development of land in which the local planning authority has an interest but which it does not itself propose to carry out.

# Technical notes

## Data collection

Statistics of planning applications received and decided by authorities that undertake district level planning activity have been collated, on a quarterly basis, since April 1979 on the PS1 and PS2 General Development Control statistical returns (District). From the March quarter 2008, the PS1, PS2 and the Fee1 (revenue collected in respect of PS1 and PS2) returns are now combined as a single return, the PSF return. Information on planning applications for authorities that undertake county level planning activities are collated on the CPS1/2 General Development Control statistical returns (County Matters). The PSF and CPS1/2 forms are reported to the department via *Interform* – the department’s housing and planning electronic data collection system.

The data collected has been chosen to provide useful and relevant information on the level and trends in planning applications and decisions to users while ensuring that the burden of completing the PSF return placed on local authorities is not excessive. The analysis carried out by DCLG aggregates the raw data and calculates percentages so as to allow comparison between authorities and between different quarters or years. In particular, the percentage of decisions permitted, and the percentage of decisions made in a specified time period allow the performance and efficiency of local authorities to be judged.

## Data quality

Both the PSF and CPS1/2 returns submitted by local planning authorities undergo thorough validation and checks. Inconsistent data highlighted during validation and checks are verified by contacting the local authority. Late returns are pursued to ensure the overall response rate is as high as possible. Where a response rate of 100% is not achieved estimates are imputed for non-responding district level authorities.

In the September quarter 2013, 334 out of 336 planning authorities (99 per cent) submitted district-level planning data and 159 out of 161 planning authorities (99 per cent) submitted county-level planning data in time for this publication. Note that several authorities have had their planning functions abolished or created during the past 12 months – the planning functions for London Thames Gateway UDC were abolished on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 and those for Milton Keynes Partnership were abolished on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 while the London Legacy Development Corporation was made a planning authority on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

Also, for this publication only, data has been refreshed and reimputed for the past three quarters going back to the October to December quarter of 2012. This is due to the Government’s decision to designate authorities with a poor performance in deciding applications, based on performance over a two year period.

Authorities for which partial or no data has been received over the year (i.e. they did not submit information for one or more quarters) are highlighted in the Live Tables. The figures for the small number of non-responding authorities have been imputed using data from similar authorities, although some information, such as the fees received, or the number of enforcement notices issued are not imputed. Where data for non-responding authorities has been imputed it is marked in the tables. No imputation is carried out for county level planning. Data for individual local authorities are presented in tables P129 to P138.

**All figures in the commentary have been calculated using unrounded data. As a result, there may be some apparent discrepancy with figures shown in the accompanying tables.**

From April 2007 an indication on the level of quality assurance undertaken by the local authority is recorded as part of the final sign-off for these returns.

Authorities are supplied with comprehensive guidance to ensure that there is a common understanding of the various categories of planning applications which are recorded on the PSF forms. Possible sources of error include mistakes when submitting information, although we do ask authorities to indicate what quality assurance they have undertaken when completing the PSF form, as well as the errors caused by using imputed data because an authority has not submitted information in time. However, as we routinely achieve response rates of 95%+ this error is minimised.

## Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>).

There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

### Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

### Scheduled Revisions

Local authorities can submit missing data or revise their PSF and CPS 1/2 returns following publication of the data. At the end of each financial year the figures for the four quarters of the previous year will be reviewed for revision. A decision on whether to revise will be made based on the impact of any change and the effect it has on the interpretation of the time series. Provisional figures are labelled in the tables with a "P".

Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) are only made where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition. Where there are small changes that do not substantially change historic data, internal updates are maintained.

Previously published information is not revised unless there has been a systematic error.

## Scale of Revisions

Actual revisions to submitted data are rare. However, due to the Government's decision to designate authorities based on their performance over the past two years, we have allowed authorities to resubmit missing or erroneous data going back to October 2012. This has resulted in more revisions to published data than is usual. For example, the amount of applications received in 2012-13 has been revised upwards by 100 applications (0.02%).

## User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>

The user engagement strategy on planning and land use can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7514/1757090.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7514/1757090.pdf)

## Notes

This Release is a web-only publication. Details of officials who receive pre-release access to this statistical release 24 hours before publication can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics#pre-release-access-to-official-statistics>

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs.

This Statistical Release and previous publications can be accessed from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/planning-applications-statistics>



## Devolved administration statistics

Information and statistics on planning applications for the devolved administrations can be accessed at the following links:

**Scotland:** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Planning>

**Wales:** <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningstats/?lang=en>

**Northern Ireland:** <http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/tools/about-statistics.htm>

## Enquiries

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Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/browse-by-theme/index.html](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/browse-by-theme/index.html)

Information about statistics at DCLG is available via the Department's website:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics)

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December 2013

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ISBN: 978-1-4098-4111-1