



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Planning Applications: October to December 2013 England



Planning *Statistical Release*

21 March 2014

Between October and December 2013 district level planning authorities in England:

- decided 104,700 planning applications, 1 per cent higher than in the same quarter in the previous year;
- granted 85,200 permissions, unchanged from the same quarter in 2012;
- granted 88 per cent of applications, compared with 87 per cent in the same quarter in 2012;
- decided 74 per cent of major applications in 13 weeks;
- and decided 6 per cent more residential decisions compared to the December quarter 2012, with numbers of major residential decisions (10 or more dwellings) up by 36 per cent.

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

- decided 422,900 planning applications, a decrease of 1 per cent compared to the figure for the year to December 2012;
- granted 346,800 permissions, no change compared to the figure for the year to December 2012;
- granted 88 per cent of decisions, an increase of 1 percentage point when compared to the previous year;
- decided 67 per cent of major applications in 13 weeks;
- decided 70 per cent of minor applications and 83 per cent of others in 8 weeks compared with 68 per cent and 81 per cent respectively in the previous year;
- and decided 7 per cent more residential decisions compared to the previous year, with major residential decisions up by 31 per cent.

Introduction	2
Authorities undertaking district level planning	2
Authorities undertaking county level planning	7
Accompanying tables	10
Definitions	11
Technical notes	15
Enquiries	18

Responsible Statistician:

Sylvia Williams

Statistical enquiries:

office hours:

0303 444 1655

planning.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Media Enquiries:

0303 444 1201

press@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Date of next publication:

June 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 19 February 2014 for the PSF return (District) and 13 February 2014 for the CPS1/2 return (County Matters). 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 October to December 2013, authorities undertaking district level planning in England received 108,600 applications for planning permission. This represents an increase of 2 per cent compared with the corresponding quarter in 2012. In the year ending December 2013, authorities received 464,400 planning applications, an increase of 1% compared to the year ending December 2012. **(Table P120)**

Planning decisions

In October to December 2013, authorities decided 104,700 planning applications, 1 per cent higher than in the same quarter in the previous year. In the year ending December 2013 authorities decided 422,900 planning applications, a decrease of 1% compared to the year ending December 2012. **(Tables P123/P124)**

Applications granted

In October to December 2013, authorities granted 85,200 permissions, unchanged from the same quarter in 2012. Authorities granted 88 per cent of all decisions, 1 percentage point more when compared to the December quarter 2012. Overall, 85 per cent of major and minor decisions were granted. **(Tables P123/P131)**

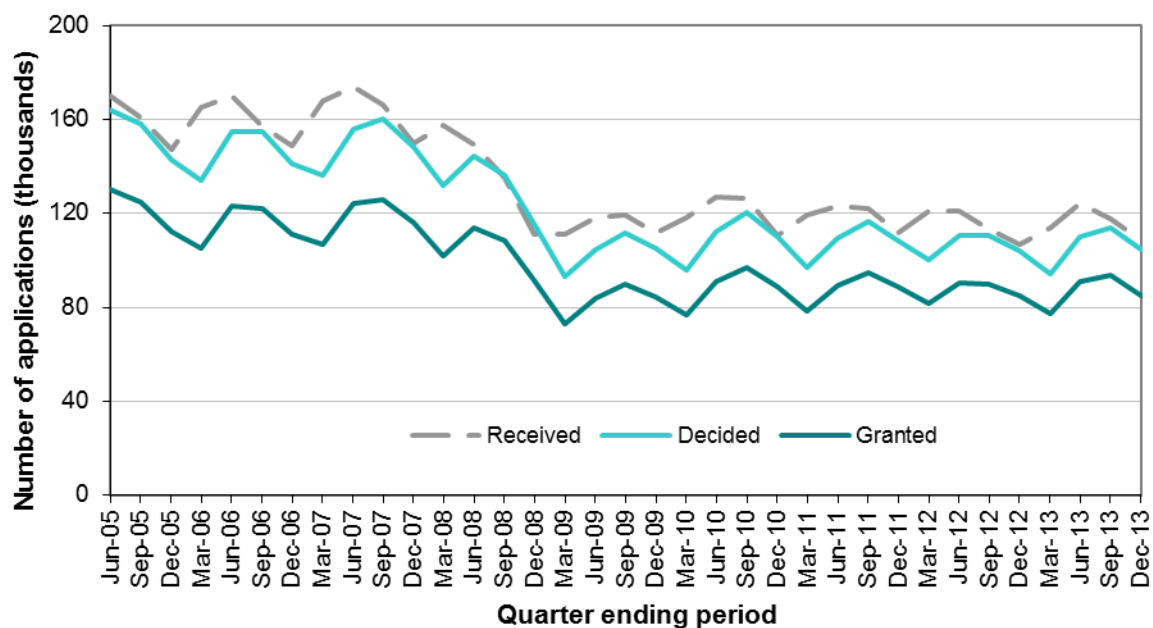
Over the 12 months to December 2013, 346,800 applications were granted, little change from the year to December 2012. Authorities granted 88 per cent of all decisions in the year to December 2013, unchanged when compared to the year to December 2012. Overall, 85 per cent of major and minor decisions were granted. **(Tables P124/P132)**

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

Financial Year	Quarter	Received		Decided		Granted ¹	
		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%
	Sep	118	4%	114	3%	93	4%
	Dec	109	2%	105	1%	85	0%
Year to Dec 2012		461.7		425.5		346.9	
Year to Dec 2013		464.4	1%	422.9	-1%	346.8	0%

¹ 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 October to December 2013, 74 per cent of major applications were processed within 13 weeks, compared with 57 per cent in the December quarter 2012. Also, 70 per cent of minor applications and 84 per cent of other applications were processed within 8 weeks, compared with 68 per cent and 82 per cent respectively for the quarter ending December 2012. **(Table P123)**. District level planning authorities decided 69 per cent of large-scale major applications, and 76 per cent of small-scale major applications within 13 weeks compared with 50 per cent and 58 per cent respectively for the quarter ending December 2012. Also, 92 per cent of all major decisions were within 52 weeks, an increase of 2 percentage points compared to the previous year. **(Table P125)**.

In the year ending December 2013, 67 per cent of major applications were processed within 13 weeks, compared with 56 per cent in the year ending December 2012. This reflects a change since April 2013 where Planning Performance Agreements, Extension of Time and Environmental Impact Assessments decided within the agreed time are included. Also, 70 per cent of minor applications and 83 per cent of other applications were processed within 8 weeks compared with 68 per cent and 81 per cent respectively in the year ending December 2012. **(Table P124)**. District level planning authorities decided 62 per cent of large-scale major applications, and 68 per cent of small-scale major applications within 13 weeks compared with 49 per cent and 58 per cent respectively in the year ending December 2012. Also 92 per cent of all major decisions were within 52 weeks, an increase of 2 percentage points 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 October to December 2013, there were 14,100 decisions on applications for residential developments, compared with around 13,300 decisions in the December quarter 2012, an increase of 6 per cent. The number of major residential decisions increased by 36% from 1,400 decisions in the December quarter 2012 to 1,900 decisions, while minor residential decisions increased by 3 per cent to 12,200 decisions. Authorities granted 82 per cent of major residential applications, no change from the December quarter 2012, and determined 68 per cent of them within 13 weeks, up from 45 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 74 per cent and 61 per cent respectively in the December quarter 2012. **(Table P123).**

In the year to December 2013, residential decisions increased by 7 per cent from 50,000 in the 12 months to December 2012 to 53,400 decisions. The number of major decisions increased by 31 per cent from 5,200 to 6,800 decisions while minor residential decisions increased by 4 per cent from 44,800 to 46,600 decisions. Authorities granted 82 per cent of major residential applications, up from 83 per cent compared with the year ending December 2012, and determined 60 per cent of them within 13 weeks, up from 45 per cent in the previous year. Authorities granted 76 per cent of decisions on minor residential applications and determined 62 per cent within 8 weeks, 2 percentage points more compared with the previous year. **(Table P124).**

Historical context

The number of applications received in the year to December 2013 was 464,400, 1 per cent up on the year to December 2012. This was still below the peak of 689,000 in 2004/05. The proportion of decisions granted in the year to December 2013 was 88 per cent. Planning approvals are at the highest level since 2007.

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 43,800 decisions in the December quarter 2012 to 43,900 decisions in the corresponding quarter in 2013 (when they accounted for 42 per cent of all decisions). Authorities granted 90 per cent and decided 86 per cent within 8 weeks, compared with 89 per cent and 85 per cent respectively in October to December 2012. **(Table P123).**

In the year ending December 2013, the number of householder developments decided fell by 2 per cent from 186,900 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 December 2012 **(Table P124).**

Planning Applications for Traveller Pitches

In the year ending December 2013, authorities determined 44 major applications for traveller pitches. Authorities granted 73 per cent of these major applications and determined 68 per cent within 13 weeks. Also, authorities determined 250 minor applications on traveller pitches. Authorities granted 57 per cent of the minor applications and 36 per cent were determined within 8 weeks (**Table P138**).

Enforcement action

In the October to December quarter 2013, authorities issued 1,144 Enforcement Notices and served 1,107 Planning Contravention Notices, 202 Breach of Condition Notices, 23 Stop Notices and 53 Temporary Stop Notices, while 9 Enforcement Injunctions and one Temporary Injunction were granted by the High/County Court (**Table P127**).

Regulation 3 and 4 consents

In the October to December 2013 quarter, 604 Regulation 3 consents and 37 Regulation 4 consents were granted (**Table P128**).

Applications for determination

Authorities received 3,685 applications for determination on whether local authority approval was required for certain works in the December quarter 2013 (**Table P128**). Local authorities decided to intervene in 405 cases (11 per cent).

Applications decided under delegated powers

Table P133/P134 shows 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 December quarter 2013 authorities delegated 91 per cent of decisions to planning officers. In the year ending December 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 1,635 'county matters' applications in the year ending December 2013. This compares with around 464,400 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 December quarter 2013, authorities received 442 'county matter' applications, an increase of 8 per cent compared with the same quarter last year. County councils accounted for 71 per cent of total applications, unitary authorities for 1 per cent and metropolitan districts for 10 per cent (**Table P139**). The highest number of applications was received by Staffordshire (30 applications). (**Table P143**).

In the year ending December 2013, authorities received 1,635 'county matter' applications. County councils accounted for 71 per cent of total applications, unitary authorities for 18 per cent and metropolitan districts for 9 per cent. The highest number of applications was received by Norfolk (80 applications) (**Table P144**).

Planning decisions

County matter authorities determined 423 planning applications in the December quarter 2013, an increase of one per cent on the number of decisions made in the same quarter last year. Of these, 93 per cent were granted, a 1 percentage point decrease when compared with the same quarter last year (**Table P139**). Lincolnshire determined the highest number of planning applications (25 applications) (**Table P143**). Waste developments accounted for 71 per cent of the total decisions and minerals developments accounted for 26 per cent (**Table P140**).

In the year ending December 2013, county matter authorities determined 1,468 planning applications, a decrease of 9 per cent on the number in the 12 months to December 2012. Of these, 95 per cent were granted. Lincolnshire determined the highest number of planning applications (74 applications decided) (**Table P144**). Waste developments accounted for 55 per cent of the total decisions and minerals developments accounted for 26 per cent (**Table P141**).

Speed of decisions

In the December quarter 2013, county-level planning authorities determined 72 per cent of applications within 13 weeks (**Table P143**). In the year ending December 2013, county-level planning authorities determined 64 per cent of applications within 13 weeks (**Table P144**). 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 December quarter 2013, a total of 365 Regulation 3 consents and no Regulation 4 consents were granted by county level planning authorities. The highest number of Regulation 3 consents was granted by Suffolk (36 consents). In the year ending December 2013, a total of 1,555 Regulation 3 and 3 Regulation 4 consents were granted. The highest number of Regulation 3 consents was granted by Lancashire (110 consents).

In the December quarter 2013, 418 decisions were made under Article 21, with the highest number reported by Derbyshire (46 decisions). The number of determinations under the review of mineral planning permissions was also collated, however only 20 were determined by county level planning authorities.

In the year ending December 2013, 1,588 decisions were made under Article 21, with the highest number reported by Essex (167 decisions). The number of determinations under the review of mineral planning permissions was also collated, however only 43 were determined by county level planning authorities.

Enforcement action

In the quarter to December 2013 county level planning authorities issued 12 Enforcement Notices, served no Stop Notices and 5 Temporary Stop Notices, 40 Planning Contravention Notices and 5 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	482	21%	363	21%	338	23%
	Dec	427	-1%	431	35%	404	37%
	Mar	469	13%	372	-1%	347	2%
2012-13	Jun	385	-4%	430	20%	399	19%
	Sep	441	-9%	394	9%	370	9%
	Dec	410	-4%	418	-3%	394	-2%
	Mar	381	-19%	359	-3%	338	-3%
2013-14	Jun	409	6%	351	-18%	336	-16%
	Sep	403	-9%	335	-15%	325	-12%
	Dec	442	8%	423	1%	392	-1%
Year to Dec 2012		1,705		1,614		1,510	
Year to Dec 2013		1,635	-4%	1,468	-9%	1,391	-8%

Accompanying tables

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

P120	District planning authorities – Planning applications received and decided by speed of decision
P121/P122	District planning authorities - Planning decisions by type of authority and speed of decision
P123/P124	District planning authorities – Planning decisions by speed, performance agreements and type of development
P124A	District planning authorities – Planning decisions by development type and authority
P125/P126	District planning authorities – Major planning decisions by speed, performance agreements and type of development
P127	District planning authorities – Enforcement action
P128	District planning authorities – Regulation 3 and 4 consents granted and applications for determination
P129/P130	District planning authorities – Enforcement action by authority
P131/P132	District planning authorities – Planning decisions, by development type, speed of decision and authority
P133/P134	District planning authorities – Applications received, decided, granted and delegated, environmental statements received and flow of applications by authority
P135/P136	District planning authorities – Planning decisions on Major and Minor residential development by authority
P137/P138	District planning authorities – Planning decisions on Major and Minor Traveller Caravan Pitches by authority
P139	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning applications received, decided and granted by type of authority
P140/P141	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning decisions decided and granted by type of authority and type and size of development
P142	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning decisions by speed of decision
P143/P144	'County matter' planning authorities – Planning applications received, decided and granted and Regulation 3 and 4 consents by authority
P145	'County matter' planning authorities – Enforcement action
P146	'County matters' planning authorities – Decisions on minerals applications by type of development
P147	'County matters' planning authorities – Decisions on waste planning applications by type of development
P148	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning decisions decided and granted by nature of site, type of development and nature of application
P149	'County matters' planning authorities – Planning decisions by speed, size of site and type of development
P150	'County matters' planning authorities – Reasons given for decisions taking over 8 weeks
P151a	District 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, London boroughs, national park authorities and urban development corporations. These authorities include applications for planning permissions on residential, offices, industrial, retail and householder developments.

District matters - 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.

District matters - 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.

District matters - 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.

County level planning is undertaken by county councils, metropolitan districts, unitary authorities, London boroughs, national park authorities and urban development corporations.

County matters - Major Developments

Applications for developments which are termed 'county matters' are, broadly, those which relate to minerals and waste and associated developments. A more detailed definition is contained in:

- (a) Schedule 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- (b) Town & Country Planning (Prescription of County Matters) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 /1033).

For the purpose of form CPS1/2 all 'county matter' development is regarded as 'major development'. The Development Management Procedure Order (DPMO) 2010 defines 'major development' as including:

- (i) the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits;
- (ii) waste development;
- (iii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more;
- (iv) development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more;

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
- (iia) 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 dwelling house 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 have 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 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 December quarter 2013, 327 out of 336 planning authorities (97 per cent) submitted district-level planning data and 154 out of 161 planning authorities (96 per cent) submitted county-level planning data in time for this publication. Note that one authority has had their planning functions abolished or created during the past 12 months – the planning functions for Milton Keynes Partnership were abolished on 14th January 2013 while the London Legacy Development Corporation was made a planning authority on 1st October 2012.

Also, for this publication, data have been refreshed and reimputed for the past three quarters going back to the January to March quarter of 2013. 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 have been imputed they are 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 discrepancies 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. Data is revised for the previous 3 quarters and for the autumn designations data is revised for the past 10 quarters. 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 made only 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 20 applications (0.004 %).

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

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

Media enquiries:

office hours: 0303 444 1157

0303 444 1159

out of hours: 0303 444 1201

Email: press@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Public enquiries and Responsible Statistician:

Sylvia Williams

Email: planning.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk

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

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

© Crown copyright, 2014

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/ or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This document/publication is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/dclg

If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, email contactus@communities.gov.uk or write to us at:

Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

March 2014

For all our latest news and updates follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

ISBN: 978-1-4098-4183-8