

Highways Agency Performance Specification 2013-14 – Technical Note

Field	Notes
Short Title	Planning Indefinite Non-approvals (“Refusals”) and Reasons.
Performance Specification Reference	Output 2 – PS 2.9d
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 percentage of applications which have indefinite non approvals imposed on them by the network operator and the reasons for doing so.
Technical Definition	The percentage of directions of indefinite non-approval (commonly referred to as “refusals”) sent to local planning authorities as a proportion of all responses “the indefinite non-approval rate”, and the reasons for doing so.
Rationale	It is a key indicator of our attitude generally towards development affecting the SRN. The National Planning Policy Framework prescribes a presumption in favour of sustainable development and this is reflected in the Agency’s own policy. Consequently, directions of “refusal” should only be used in circumstances where development would have unacceptable impact on the SRN and no viable mitigation can be identified.
Formula	<p>The percentage of directions of indefinite non-approval as a proportion of all responses to Planning Application consultations.</p> <p><i>[Indefinite Non-Approval responses issued in Period]/ Number of Final Responses in Period]x100%</i></p> <p>E.g. - 3 Non-approvals / 2645 Final Responses * 100 = 0.1%</p>
Start Date	Figures are available going back to April 2010.
Performance	Although there is no target, given the above mentioned policy outlined in the rationale above, we should be looking for this measure to stay at very low levels.
Behavioural Impact	This indicator helps to show that the Highways Agency only issue indefinite non-approvals very rarely. The measure has a positive impact on attitude toward planning applications which fits within the objective of having a Strategic Road Network that supports and facilitates economic growth. All reported non-approvals have to be peer-reviewed from a different NDD Regional Office and the results reported back.

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Comparability	Unknown, as other statutory consultees do not have powers of direction over Local Planning Authorities.
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 stemming from manually inputted response type to a planning application consultation. Since April 2013, this has included a mandatory and summarised list of non-approval direction reasons which is chosen manually. This is then drawn down into the Monthly National Planning Report to automatically produce the non approval rate.
Robustness and Data Limitations	Relies on choosing correct response type and reason, being manually entered.
Collecting Organisation	Highways Agency (NDD).
Return Format	Percentage & summary text of reason detail.
Geographical Coverage	England.
How Indicator Can be Broken Down	Monthly breakdown via NDD Regional boundaries is also done.