



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Planning Applications in England: January to March 2017

Between January and March 2017, district level planning authorities in England:

- received 123,300 applications for planning permission, up three per cent on the corresponding quarter of 2016;
- granted 89,500 decisions, up four per cent from the same quarter in 2016; this is equivalent to 87 per cent of decisions, one percentage point down from the same quarter of 2016;
- decided 87 per cent of major applications within 13 weeks or the agreed time, up from 83 per cent a year earlier;
- granted 12,300 residential applications, up nine per cent on a year earlier: 1,700 for major developments and 10,600 for minors, up on the same quarter of 2016 by 17 and eight per cent respectively;
- granted 2,600 applications for commercial developments, down two per cent on a year earlier; and
- received 9,200 applications for prior approval for permitted development rights, up two per cent from the same quarter of 2016. Of these, 1,400 applications were for changes to residential use, of which 1,000 were approved without having to go through the full planning process.

In the year ending March 2017, district level planning authorities:

- granted 386,000 decisions, up four per cent from the figure for the year ending March 2016;
- granted 50,100 decisions on residential developments: 6,600 for major developments and 43,500 for minors, up on the year ending March 2016 by 12 per cent and six per cent respectively; and
- granted 11,200 applications for commercial developments, down one per cent on the year ending March 2016.



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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 planning authority level and are based on information reported for the relevant quarters as at 12 May 2017 for the PS1/2 return ('District matters') and the CPS1/2 return ('County matters'). The Definitions section provides details on the main terms used within this release and associated live tables.

Authorities undertaking district level planning

A summary of the trends in applications, decisions and permissions granted is provided in **Figure 1** and **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.

Planning applications

During January to March 2017, authorities undertaking district level planning in England received 123,300 applications for planning permission, up three per cent on the corresponding quarter in 2016. In the year ending March 2017, authorities received 486,500 planning applications, up three per cent from 474,500 in the year ending March 2016 (**Live Tables P120/P132/P134 and Table 1**).

Planning decisions

Authorities reported 102,300 decisions on planning applications in January to March 2017, an increase of four per cent on the 98,400 decisions in the same quarter of the previous year. In the year ending March 2017, authorities decided 439,600 planning applications, an increase of four per cent compared to the year ending March 2016 (**Live Tables P120/P133/P134 and Table 1**).

Applications granted

During January to March 2017, authorities granted 89,500 decisions, up four per cent from the same quarter in 2016. Authorities granted 87 per cent of all decisions, down one percentage point from the March quarter 2016 (**Live Tables P120/P133**). Overall, 83 per cent of major and minor decisions were granted. The percentage of decisions granted varied widely between local planning authorities, ranging from 0 to 100 per cent for major developments, 46 to 100 per cent for minor developments and 59 to 100 per cent for other developments (**Live Tables P120/P131**). Over the 12 months to March 2017, 386,000 decisions were granted, up four per cent from the year to March 2016 (**Live Tables P122/P132 and Table 1**).

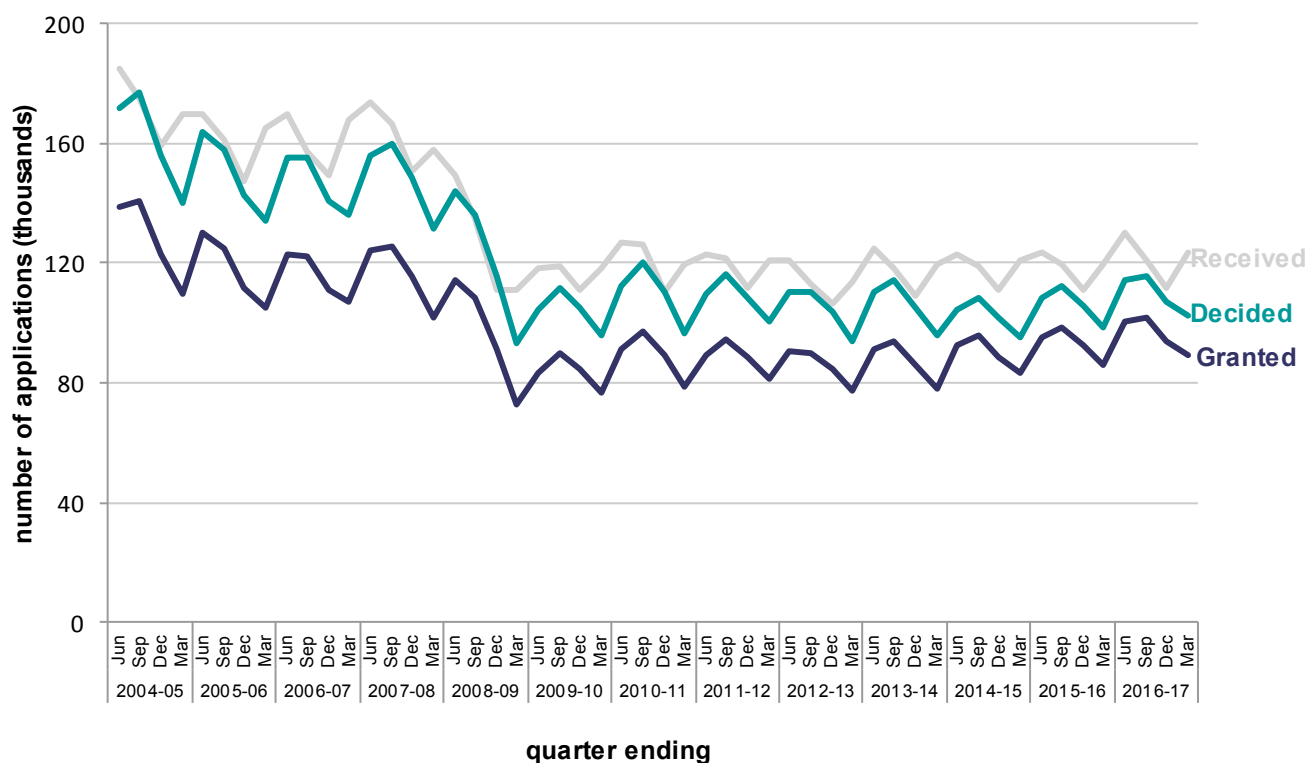
Historical context

Figure 1 and **Table 1** show that, since 2005, the numbers of applications received, decisions made and applications granted have each followed a similar pattern. As well as the usual within-year pattern of peaks in the Summer and troughs in the Winter, there was a clear downward trend during the 2008 economic downturn, with figures remaining broadly level since then, albeit with numbers granted showing a slight upward trend, in line with the increase in the percentage of applications granted. Figure 1 shows that the numbers of applications received in recent years are some way below the peak in 2004/05.

Historical figures for all district level decisions dating back to 2004 are set out in **Live Table P120**, with separate breakdowns for residential and commercial decisions being shown in **Live Tables P120A** and **P120B** respectively. These latter two tables are published for the first time this quarter and are discussed below in the sections on residential and commercial decisions¹.

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

England, quarter ending June 2004 to quarter ending March 2017



¹ Tables P120A and P120B do not between them cover the totality of decisions included in P120, which also includes decisions on Traveller caravan pitches and various 'Other developments'.

Table 1: District level planning applications received, decided and granted							
England, quarter ending December 2004 to quarter ending March 2017							
Financial year	Quarter ending	Number / Percentage					
		Received		Decided ¹		Granted ²	
		Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year
2004-05	Dec	159	4%	156	5%	123	3%
	Mar	170	-4%	140	-3%	110	-6%
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	125	3%	111	0%	92	1%
	Sep	119	5%	115	4%	94	4%
	Dec	109	2%	105	1%	86	1%
	Mar	119	5%	96	2%	78	1%
2014-15	Jun	123	-1%	104	-6%	92	1%
	Sep	119	0%	109	-5%	96	2%
	Dec	111	2%	102	-3%	89	4%
	Mar	121	1%	95	0%	83	7%
2015-16	Jun ^R	124	0%	108	4%	95	3%
	Sep ^R	120	1%	112	3%	99	3%
	Dec ^R	111	0%	106	4%	92	4%
	Mar ^R	120	-1%	98	3%	86	4%
2016-17	Jun ^R	130	5%	114	6%	101	6%
	Sep ^R	121	1%	116	3%	102	3%
	Dec ^R	112	1%	107	1%	94	1%
	Mar ^P	123	3%	102	4%	89	4%
Year to Mar 2016		474.5		424.7		372.6	
Year to Mar 2017 ^P		486.5	3%	439.6	4%	386.0	4%
¹ Decisions do not include conservation area consents, certificates of law ful development and notifications with effect from 1 April 2014. ² For quarters before 1 April 2014, the percentages of decisions granted that can be derived using the numbers on decisions and decisions granted in this table differ from the percentage figures in Table P120. This is because the decisions shown in Table P120 for this period exclude conservation area consents, certificates of law ful development and notifications, whereas the numbers of decisions granted shown in this table include such applications. R = Revised; P = provisional							

Speed of decisions

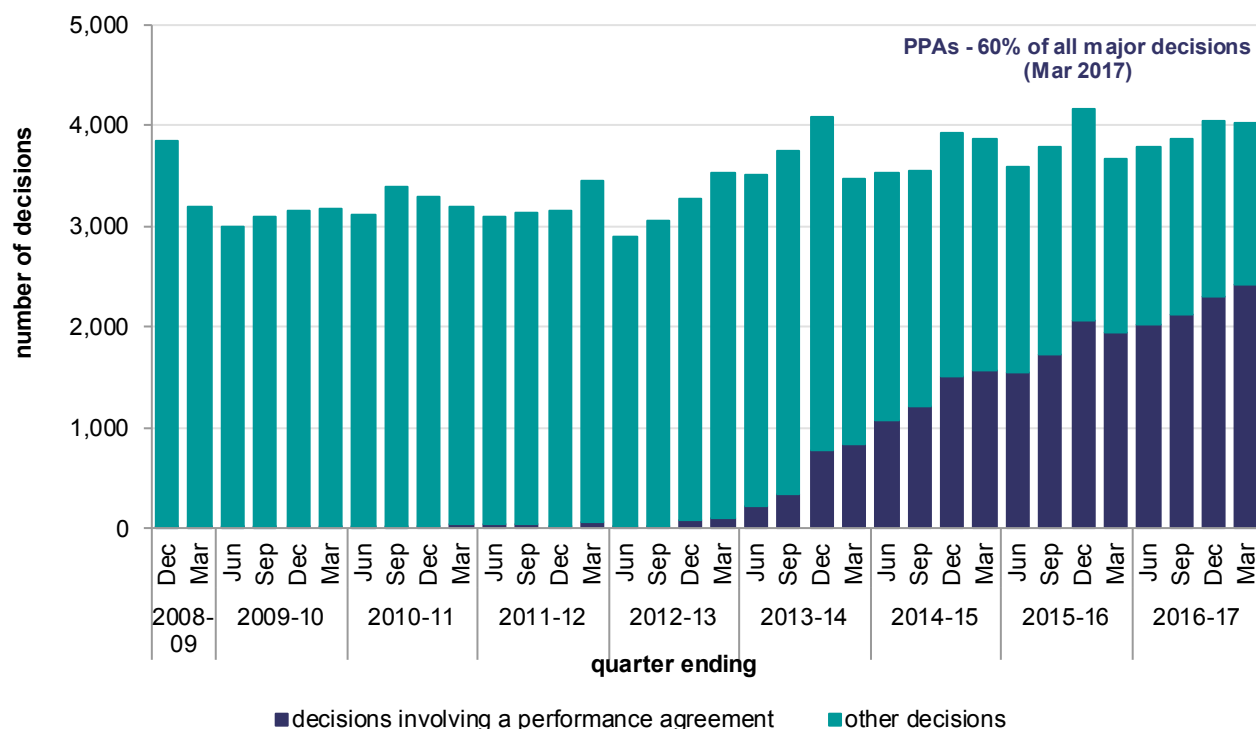
- In January to March 2017, 87 per cent of major applications were decided within 13 weeks or within the agreed time for Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs), Extensions of Time (EoTs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), compared with 83 per cent in the March quarter 2016.
- In the March quarter of 2017, 85 per cent of minor applications and 90 per cent of other applications were decided within eight weeks or the agreed time. These figures show increases, compared with 78 per cent and 86 per cent a year earlier respectively.

The percentage of decisions made in time varied widely between local planning authorities, ranging from 0 to 100 per cent for major developments, 8 to 100 per cent for minor developments and 29 to 100 per cent for other developments (**Live Tables P120, P123 and P131**).

Because deciding an application on time can include the use of a performance agreement, the calculation of the proportion of decisions made within the agreed time was changed to include PPAs from April 2008 for major and some 'other' developments, and to also include agreed EoTs and EIAs from April 2013. Applications since April 2014 for minor developments and for changes of use, householder developments and advertisements can now also be recorded as having included a performance agreement.

Because the most consistent reporting of agreements is for major applications, **Figure 2** and **Table 2** show, from 2008, numbers of decisions on major developments made involving a performance agreement, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of all decisions on major developments. Notwithstanding these definitional changes, there has been a marked increase in the use of agreements since early 2013, although the increases have slowed down in recent quarters. In reality, this has been driven by both the additional scope for recording them and their additional use. The proportion of major decisions subject to an agreement was 60 per cent during January to March 2017, up from 24 per cent in the January to March quarter of 2014 (**Table 2 and Live Table P131**).

Figure 2: Use of performance agreements with applications for major developments¹
 England, quarter ending June 2008 to quarter ending March 2017



¹Figures cover planning performance agreements from April 2008 and agreed extensions of time and environmental impact assessments from 1 April 2013

The three final columns in Table P120 give corresponding figures for applications involving a planning agreement for all types of development (major, minor and 'other' combined), showing numbers of decisions and percentages decided within time. In the March quarter 2017, a total of 24,500 decisions involving performance agreements were made, of which 21,800 (89 per cent) were decided on time. The notes to Table 120 describe how the scope of the information collected has changed over time, in terms of: i) the type of agreement; and ii) the type of development covered.

Figure 3 and **Reference Table 2** show that in the March quarter of 2017, 91 per cent of major development decisions involving performance agreements were made on time. In comparison, 83 per cent of major decisions not involving performance agreements were made within the statutory time limit of 13 weeks.

Table 2: Use of performance agreements with applications for major developments¹
England, quarter ending December 2008 to quarter ending March 2017

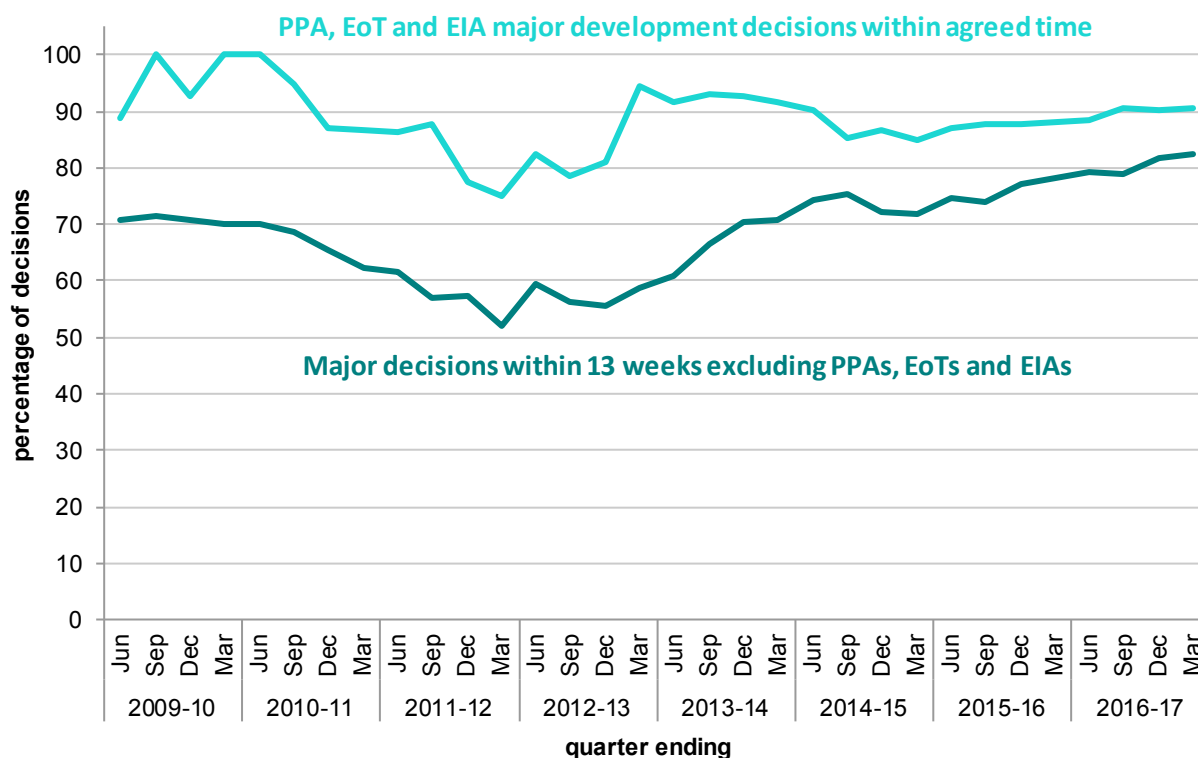
Number / Percentage				
Financial year	Quarter ending	Decisions involving a performance agreement	Total number of decisions	Decisions involving a performance agreement as a % of the total number of decisions
2008-09	Dec	8	3,840	0
	Mar	2	3,197	0
2009-10	Jun	9	2,998	0
	Sep	11	3,087	0
	Dec	27	3,148	1
	Mar	18	3,177	1
2010-11	Jun	19	3,108	1
	Sep	19	3,400	1
	Dec	23	3,292	1
	Mar	53	3,191	2
2011-12	Jun	51	3,099	2
	Sep	41	3,140	1
	Dec	31	3,150	1
	Mar	68	3,445	2
2012-13	Jun	23	2,892	1
	Sep	28	3,048	1
	Dec	85	3,271	3
	Mar	106	3,523	3
2013-14	Jun	226	3,517	6
	Sep	343	3,744	9
	Dec	772	4,080	19
	Mar	846	3,464	24
2014-15	Jun	1,069	3,541	30
	Sep	1,216	3,547	34
	Dec	1,504	3,933	38
	Mar	1,580	3,863	41
2015-16	Jun ^R	1,554	3,584	43
	Sep ^R	1,735	3,794	46
	Dec ^R	2,068	4,171	50
	Mar ^R	1,940	3,677	53
2016-17	Jun ^R	2,021	3,788	53
	Sep ^R	2,132	3,877	55
	Dec ^R	2,314	4,038	57
	Mar ^P	2,420	4,026	60

¹ Figures cover planning performance agreements from April 2008 and also agreed extensions of time and environmental impact assessments from 1 April 2013

^R Revised

^P Provisional

Figure 3: Percentage of major development decisions made within time¹
 England, quarter ending June 2009 to quarter ending March 2017



¹ Figures cover planning performance agreements from April 2009 and agreed extensions of time and environmental impact assessments from 1 April 2013

Performance of individual district level local planning authorities

Live Tables P151a and P153 present data on the performance of district level local planning authorities against the published criterion in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) on the speed of decision-making for informing decisions on the designation of poorly performing local planning authorities under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, **Live Table P151a** gives detailed figures for the time taken for **major** decisions to be made over the eight most recent quarters and **Live Table P153** presents data for the time taken by district level local planning authorities for decisions on '**non-major developments**' (previously 'minor and other developments', and defined as minor developments, changes of use and householder developments) to be made over the eight most recent quarters.

Similarly, **Live Table P152a**, presents data on the performance of district level local planning authorities against the published criterion in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) on the quality of decision-making for assessing performance under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, it gives detailed figures for the percentage of **major** decisions subject to a successful planning appeal, by matching eight quarters of the department's data on decisions and all available quarters of Planning Inspectorate data on appeals. This table is

usually published a few weeks after the statistical release and most of the other live tables, to take account of the latest appeals data.²

Live Table P154 presents data for the percentage of decisions on minor and other developments (as defined for Table P153) subject to a successful planning appeal, by matching eight quarters of the department's data on decisions and all available quarters of Planning Inspectorate data on appeals. Like Table P152a, this table is usually published a few weeks after the statistical release and most of the other live tables, to take account of the latest appeals data: see footnote 2.

Residential decisions

The figures collected by the department are numbers of decisions on planning applications submitted to local planning authorities rather than the number of units included in each application, such as the number of homes in the case of housing developments. The Department supplements this information by obtaining statistics on housing permissions from a contractor. The latest figures show that permission for 304,000 homes was given in the rolling year to 31 March 2017, compared to a revised figure of 281,000 homes granted permission in the rolling year to 31 December 2016.³ The number of homes granted permission during the rolling year to 31 March 2017 was 15 per cent higher than in the rolling year to 31 March 2016. Figures for previous quarters are revised to ensure that any duplicates are removed, and also to include any projects that local planning authorities may not have processed: they are therefore subject to change. These figures are provided to give contextual information, and have not been designated as National Statistics.

Regarding the figures reported by local planning authorities to the Department on PS1/2 returns, in January to March 2017, 16,600 decisions were made on applications for residential⁴ developments, of which 12,300 (74 per cent) were granted. The total number of residential decisions made increased by ten per cent from the March quarter 2016, with the number granted increasing by nine per cent. The number of major residential decisions granted increased by 17 per cent to 1,700 whereas the number of minor residential decisions granted increased by eight per cent, to 10,600 (**Live Tables P120A, P123 and P135**). In the year ending March 2017, authorities granted, 6,600 major and 43,500 minor residential applications, up by 12 and six per cent respectively on the year ending March 2016 (**Live Tables P120A and P136**).

Commercial⁵ decisions

In January to March 2017, 2,800 decisions were made on applications for commercial develop-

² The latest published version of Table P152a covers decisions made during the eight quarters to December 2014 and appeals decisions to September 2015, with Table P154 relating to a quarter earlier. For both tables, technical concerns relating to some aspects of the appeals data have been identified and are currently being investigated.

³ DCLG analysis of Barbour ABI data: Barbour ABI routinely collects data on planning applications submitted to all English local planning authorities and records the information by maintaining a 'planning application' for every project. The data are updated over time as subsequent applications are submitted and decisions made, with all new applications being matched against the existing database at entry stage. This involves an automated process supplemented by manual checking to identify any further matching projects. More details are given in the Definitions section of this release.

⁴ 'Residential' is used in this release to refer only to developments involving the construction or conversion of dwellings, rather than also including other developments involving people's homes, such as householder developments and some changes of use.

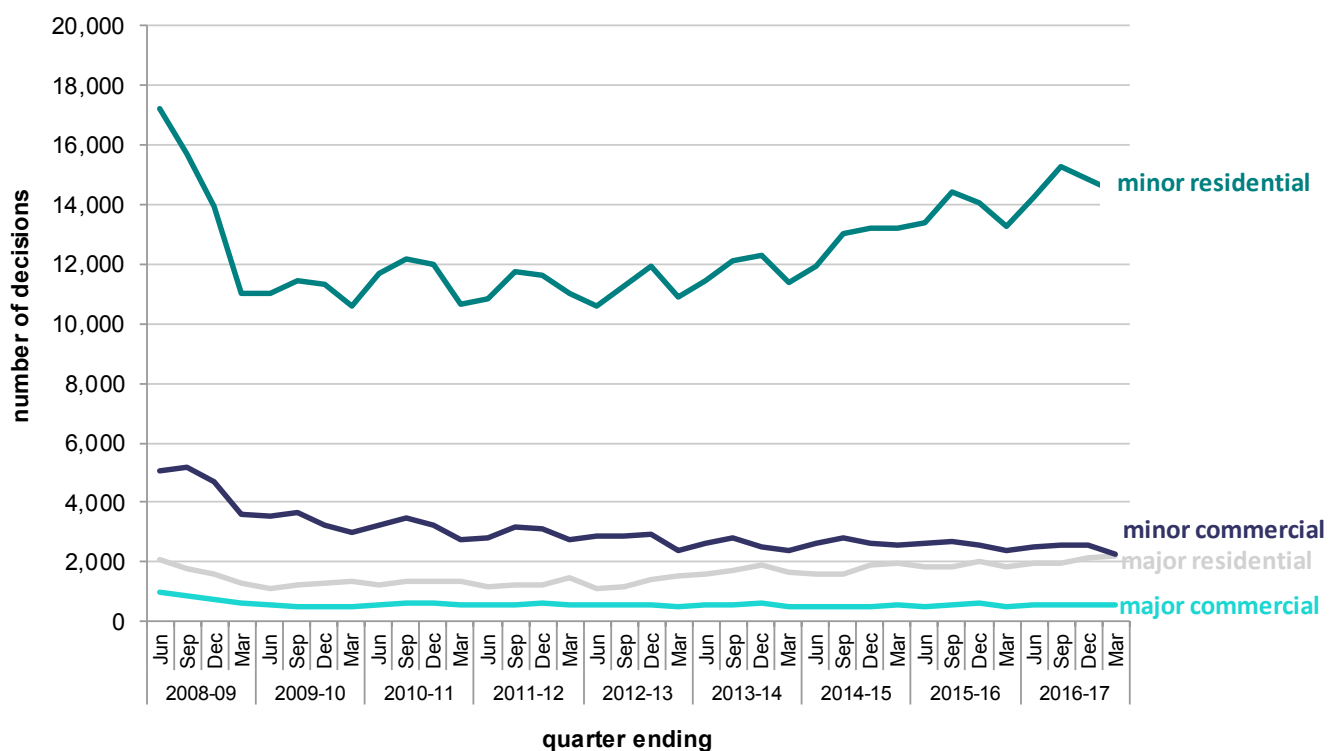
⁵ Commercial developments are defined in this release as: 'Offices, research and development, light industry', 'General industry, storage, warehousing' and 'Retail and service'

ments, of which 2,600 (92 per cent) were granted. The total number of commercial decisions remained broadly stable on the same quarter of 2016. In the year ending March 2017, 11,200 applications for commercial developments were granted, down one per cent on the year ending March 2016. (**Live Table P120B**).

Trends in residential and commercial decisions

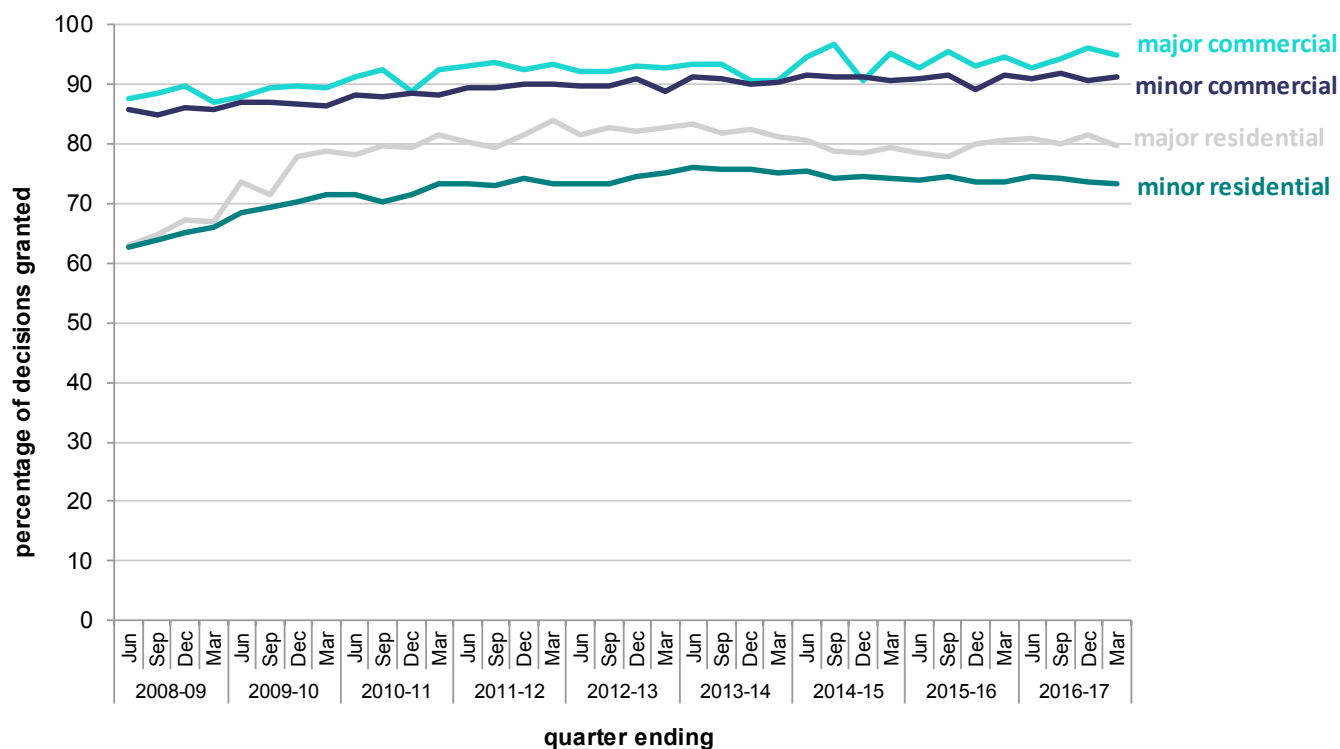
Historically, numbers of major and minor **residential** decisions dropped sharply during 2008 (particularly for minor decisions) but have been increasing since 2012. Numbers of **commercial** decisions made decreased sharply during last recession, and have since stabilised at around 2,100 per year for major and 11,000 per year for minor commercial developments. In 2016/17 numbers of minor commercial decisions were at about 44 per cent of the pre-recession peak, with the numbers of major developments being at about 62 per cent (**Live Tables P120A and P120B, Figure 4**).

Figure 4: Number of planning applications decided by district authorities, by type of development England, quarter ending June 2008 to quarter ending March 2017



The percentages of major and minor **residential** decisions granted increased between 2008/09 (from about 65 per cent for each type) and 2010/11 to about 80 per cent for majors and about 75 per cent for minors, and have stabilised since then. The percentages of major and minor **commercial** decisions granted have been increasing steadily, from 88 and 86 per cent respectively in 2008/09, to 94 and 91 per cent respectively in 2016/17 (**Live Tables P120A and P120B, Figure 5**).

Figure 5: Percentage of planning applications granted by district authorities, by type of development
England, quarter ending June 2008 to quarter ending March 2017



Householder developments

Householder developments are those developments to a house which require planning permission such as extensions, loft conversions and conservatories (more details are in the *Definitions* section). The number of decisions on householder developments increased by five per cent, from 48,000 decisions in the March quarter of 2016 to 50,300 decisions in the corresponding quarter in 2017, when they accounted for 49 per cent of all decisions. Authorities granted 90 per cent of these applications and decided 92 per cent within eight weeks or the agreed time (**Live Table P123**).

Prior approvals for permitted developments

Following the creation in May 2013 of some additional permitted development right categories (see the *Definitions* section) and consultation with local authorities, the department increased the level of detailed information on prior approvals for permitted developments collected on the PS1 return with effect from 1 April 2014. The results for the twelfth quarter for which they have been collected (January to March 2017) are included in **Live Tables PDR1** (local authority level figures) and **PDR2** (England totals). Of the 9,200 applications reported in the January to March quarter of 2017, prior approval was not required for 5,000, and permission was granted for 2,400 and refused for 1,800. This resulted in an overall acceptance rate⁶ of 80 per cent. 71 per cent of applications (6,500) related to larger householder extensions, with seven per cent relating to office to residential changes and also seven per cent relating to agricultural to residential changes.

Taking i) granted applications and ii) those for which prior approval was not required together,

⁶ The acceptance rate is defined as the number of applications for which prior approval was not required, or for which permission was granted, as a percentage of the total number of applications.

7,400 applications were approved without having to go through the full planning process, unchanged on a year earlier .

Within an overall increase of two per cent in the reported total number of applications between January and March 2016 and January and March 2017:

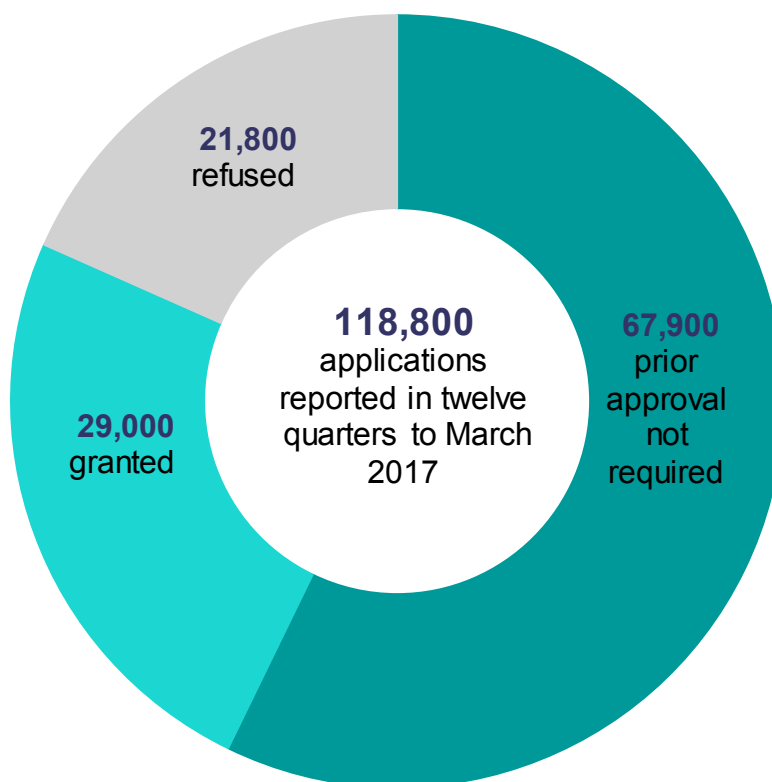
- larger householder extensions increased by four per cent
- office to residential changes dropped by 11 per cent; and
- agricultural to residential changes dropped by 11 per cent.

Changes made to the PS1 return from 1 October 2016 have made it possible to identify the total number of permitted development right applications made for changes to residential use ⁷. Figures for this are given in **Live Table PDR1**, which show that a total of 1,400 applications for changes to residential use were reported in January to March 2017, of which 1,000 (72 per cent) were approved without having to go through the full planning process.

The overall acceptance rate for the twelve quarters between the collection of detailed data started in April 2014 and the end of March 2017 is 82 per cent. The rate initially dropped from 85 per cent in the quarter ending June 2014 to 79 per cent in the quarter ending December 2014. In 2015 and 2016 the acceptance rate stabilised at around 82 per cent and was 80 per cent in the quarter ending March 2017 (**Live Table PDR2**). Overall during the twelve quarters ending March 2017, district planning authorities reported 118,800 applications for prior approvals for permitted developments. For 67,900 (57 per cent) of them prior approval was not required, 29,000 (24 per cent) were granted and 21,800 (18 per cent) were refused (**Figure 6**).

⁷ As a result of expanding the 'Retail to residential' category to 'Retail to residential and *sui generis* uses to residential'; and replacing 'Agricultural buildings to flexible uses' with 'Storage or distribution centres to residential'. More details of *sui generis* uses are given in the Definitions section.

Figure 6: Applications for prior approvals for permitted development rights reported by district planning authorities
England, twelve quarters from April 2014 to March 2017



Component figures do not sum to the total due to rounding

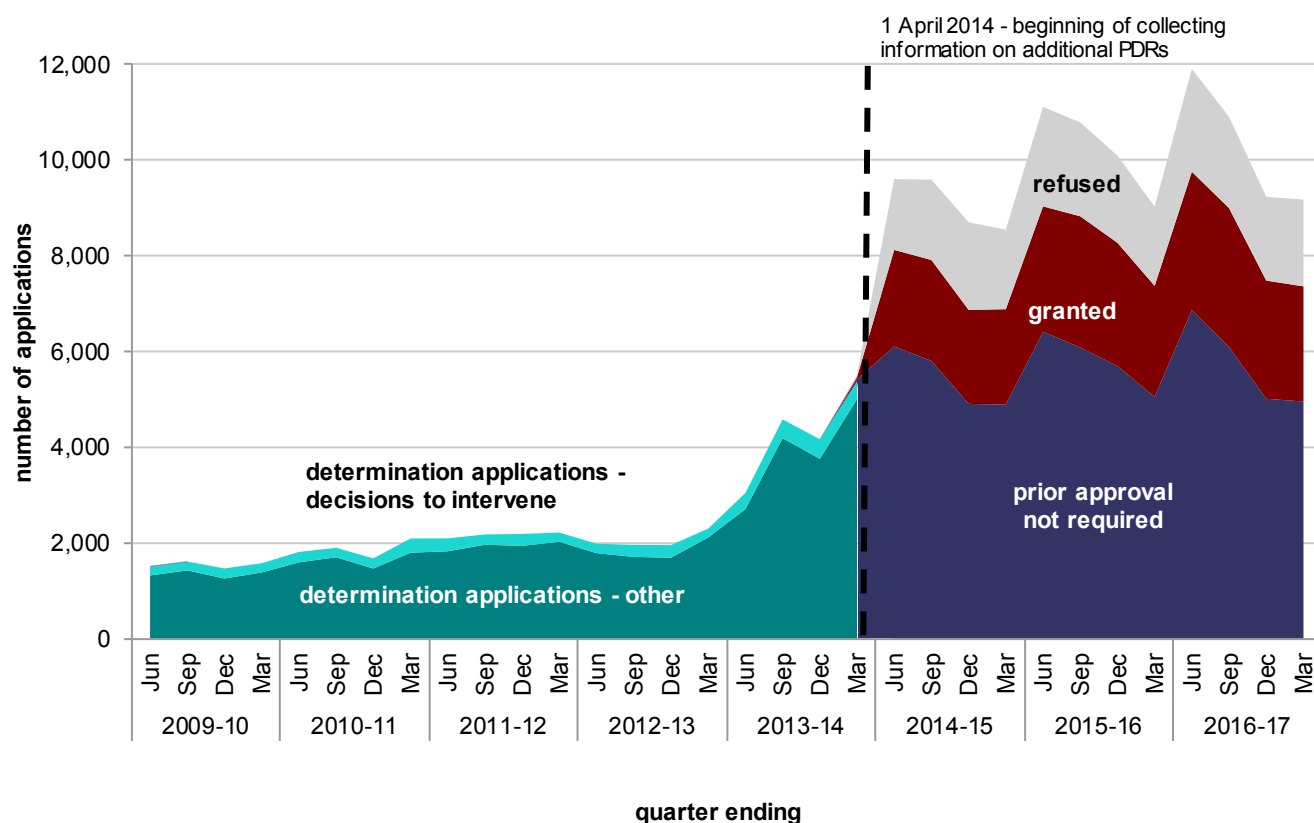
To put these recent figures into context, **Live Table P128** and **Figure 7** show how the number of determination applications received remained broadly stable at around 5,000 to 8,000 per year from 2004/05 to 2012/13, but approximately doubled to 15,700 in 2013/14, following the creation of the new permitted development right categories in May 2013.

Since then, there have been 36,500 applications in 2014/15, 41,000 in 2015/16 and 41,300 in 2016/17. The quarterly pattern since April 2014 reflects a combination of both: i) the introduction of new permitted development right categories in May 2013 and April 2015; and ii) the seasonal peaks and troughs that have previously also been observed for planning applications, as shown earlier in this release, in Figure 1 (**Live Table PDR 2** and **Figure 7**).

This significant increase in numbers of applications appears to be consistent with the annual increases in the number of dwellings added to the net housing supply through change of use of 65 per cent and 48 per cent during 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively ⁸.

⁸ Sources: *Net supply of housing in England: 2014 to 2015* at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/net-supply-of-housing-in-england-2014-to-2015> and *Housing supply: net additional dwellings, England, 2015 to 2016* at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/housing-supply-net-additional-dwellings-england-2015-to-2016>

Figure 7: Applications for determination and prior approvals for permitted development rights decided by district planning authorities
England, quarter ending June 2009 to quarter ending March 2017



Other information

England totals for all the items of information collected on the PS1 and PS2 returns for January to March 2017 are given in **Reference Tables 1 and 2** respectively. These include the following:

Delegated decisions

- Of the 102,300 decisions made during the quarter, 95,300 (93 per cent) were delegated to officers. Also see **Live Table P133**.

Enforcement activity

- During the quarter, authorities issued 1,118 enforcement notices and served 1,407 planning contravention notices, 176 breach of condition notices, 19 stop notices and 50 temporary stop notices, while 15 enforcement injunctions were granted by the High/County Court and no injunctive applications were refused. Also see **Live Table P127**.

Regulation 3 and 4 decisions

- 375 'Regulation 3' and 105 'Regulation 4' decisions were made. Also see **Live Table P128**.

Traveller pitches

- During the quarter, authorities decided six major applications for traveller pitches, granting three of them, and deciding five of them within 13 weeks or the agreed time.
- They also decided 50 minor applications for traveller pitches, granting 27 of them and deciding 27 of them within eight weeks or the agreed time. Also see **Live Table P137**.

Authorities undertaking county level planning

Authorities that undertake county level planning activity – which includes counties, unitary authorities, London boroughs, metropolitan districts, national parks and urban development corporations - received 1,264 ‘county matters’ applications in the year ending March 2017 (**Table 3** and **Live Table P144**). This compares with around 486,300 planning applications received by authorities that undertake district level planning activities. Statistics for ‘county matters’ decisions are therefore likely to be more volatile than those for districts because of the smaller numbers of such decisions.

County level figures are unrounded in this publication. Summary statistics on numbers of applications, decisions and permissions granted are shown in **Table 3**. More detailed figures are given in the accompanying **Live Tables**.

Planning applications

In the March quarter 2017, authorities received 345 ‘county matter’ applications, up 19 per cent from the same quarter last year. County councils accounted for 72 per cent of total applications received, unitary authorities for 14 per cent, metropolitan districts for eight per cent and London boroughs for two per cent. The highest number of applications was received by Norfolk County Council (21 applications). 101 out of 164 authorities (62 per cent) did not receive any ‘county matter’ applications (**Live Table P143**).

Planning decisions

‘County matters’ authorities made decisions on 263 planning applications in the March quarter 2017, down 10 per cent on the same quarter a year earlier. Of these, 93 per cent (245) were granted (**Live Table P143**), unchanged from the same quarter last year. Waste developments accounted for 63 per cent of the total decisions, minerals developments accounted for 30 per cent and other developments for seven per cent (**Live Table P140**).

Speed of decisions

In the quarter ending March 2017, ‘county matters’ planning authorities determined 90 per cent of applications within 13 weeks or the agreed time (**Live Table P143**).

Performance of individual county level local planning authorities

Live Table 151b presents data on the performance of county level local planning authorities against the published criterion in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) (revised 2016) on the speed of decision-making for informing decisions on the designation of poorly performing local planning authorities under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, it gives detailed figures for the time taken for decisions to be made over the eight most recent quarters.

Similarly, **Live Table P152b**, presents data on the performance of county level local planning authorities against the published criterion in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) on the quality of decision-making for assessing performance under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, it gives detailed figures for the percentage of decisions subject to a successful planning appeal, by matching eight quarters of the department’s data on

decisions and all available quarters of Planning Inspectorate data on appeals. This table is usually published a few weeks after the statistical release and most of the other live tables, to take account of the latest appeals data.⁹

Live Table P155 presents data on the time taken by county level local planning authorities to make decisions on oil and gas developments, using data from the eight most recent available quarters. The table has been produced to enable local planning authority performance to be measured, as set out in the Written Ministerial Statement of 16 September 2015, available at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-09-16/HCWS201/>.

Prior approval for permitted developments

Although most activity relating to permitted development rights is concerned with 'district matters', it is also relevant for 'county matters', with the CPS1 return having been amended to collect information on prior approvals for permitted developments with effect from 1 April 2014. The results for the twelfth quarter of data (January to March 2017) are given as additional columns in **Live Table PDR3**, which show that three applications for prior approval for permitted development were reported for the January to March quarter of 2017. This compares with eight applications in the January to March 2016 quarter.

Other information

England totals for the items of information collected on the CPS1 returns for January to March 2017 are given in **Reference Table 3**. These include the following:

Delegated decisions

- Of the 263 decisions made during the quarter, 175 (67 per cent) were delegated to officers.

Enforcement activity

- Authorities issued 11 enforcement notices during the quarter, and served 34 planning contravention notices, no stop notices, four temporary stop notices and eight breach of condition notices. Two enforcement injunctions were granted by the High Court or county courts and no injunctive applications were refused. Also see **Live Table P145**.

Regulation 3 and 4 decisions

- 274 'Regulation 3' and no 'Regulation 4' decisions were made. Also see **Live Table P143**.

⁹ The latest published version of Table P152b covers decisions made during the eight quarters to December 2014 and appeals decisions to September 2015. Technical concerns relating to some aspects of the appeals data have been identified and are currently being investigated.

Table 3: County level planning applications received, decided and granted

England, quarter ending December 2005 to quarter ending March 2017

Number / Percentage							
Financial year	Quarter ending	Planning applications received		Planning decisions		Applications granted	
		% change on corresponding quarter last year		% change on corresponding quarter last year		% change on corresponding quarter last year	
		Number		Number		Number	
2005-06	Dec	398	-22%	456	-1%	417	0%
	Mar	483	-7%	419	-1%	386	0%
2006-07	Jun	450	-3%	408	5%	369	5%
	Sep	448	-12%	389	-6%	347	-7%
	Dec	441	11%	399	-13%	349	-16%
	Mar	466	-4%	387	-8%	363	-6%
2007-08	Jun	467	4%	392	-4%	365	-1%
	Sep	448	0%	379	-3%	351	1%
	Dec	452	2%	390	-2%	358	3%
	Mar	473	2%	341	-12%	317	-13%
2008-09	Jun	392	-16%	374	-5%	344	-6%
	Sep	439	-2%	379	0%	347	-1%
	Dec	405	-10%	361	-7%	334	-7%
	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	7%	319	-15%	295	-14%
	Mar	415	2%	374	20%	340	16%
2011-12	Jun	399	12%	357	14%	334	15%
	Sep	482	21%	363	21%	338	23%
	Dec	452	4%	431	35%	404	37%
	Mar	498	20%	372	-1%	347	2%
2012-13	Jun	404	1%	431	21%	400	20%
	Sep	468	-3%	397	9%	371	10%
	Dec	415	-8%	427	-1%	403	0%
	Mar	384	-23%	363	-2%	342	-1%
2013-14	Jun	413	2%	355	-18%	339	-15%
	Sep	408	-13%	341	-14%	330	-11%
	Dec	451	9%	428	0%	397	-1%
	Mar	402	5%	340	-6%	318	-7%
2014-15	Jun	367	-11%	329	-7%	307	-9%
	Sep	394	-3%	332	-3%	312	-5%
	Dec	345	-24%	346	-19%	328	-17%
	Mar	313	-22%	307	-10%	286	-10%
2015-16	Jun	302	-18%	287	-13%	254	-17%
	Sep	353	-10%	287	-14%	275	-12%
	Dec ^P	319	-8%	300	-13%	282	-14%
	Mar	290	-7%	291	-5%	271	-5%
2016-17	Jun ^R	330	9%	299	4%	284	12%
	Sep	275	-22%	268	-7%	255	-7%
	Dec ^R	314	-2%	266	-11%	250	-11%
	Mar ^P	345	19%	263	-10%	245	-10%
Year to Mar 2016		1,264		1,165		1,082	
Year to Mar 2017 ^P		1,264	0%	1,096	-6%	1,034	-4%

R = revised; P = provisional

Accompanying tables

The accompanying tables updated and available to download alongside this release are:

District planning authorities

P120	District planning authorities - planning applications received, decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions, England (time series - quarterly and financial years' data)
P120A	District planning authorities – residential planning applications decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions, England (time series - quarterly and financial years' data)
P120B	District planning authorities – commercial planning applications decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions, England (time series - quarterly and financial years' data)
P121/P122	District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted and speed of decisions, by type of authority, England (P121 quarterly, P122 yearly data)
P123/P124	District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions, by type of development, England (P123 quarterly, P124 yearly data)
P124A	District planning authorities - planning decisions by development type and local planning authority (yearly data)
P127	District planning authorities - enforcement action, England (quarterly and financial years' data)
P128	District planning authorities - regulation 3 and 4 decisions made and applications for determination, England (quarterly and financial years' data)
P129/P130	District planning authorities - enforcement action by local planning authority (P129 quarterly, P130 yearly data)
P131/P132	District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions, by development type and local planning authority (P131 quarterly, P132 yearly data)
P133	District planning authorities - applications received, decided, granted and delegated, environmental statements received and flow of applications by local planning authority (quarterly data)
P134	District planning authorities - applications received, decided, granted and delegated and environmental statements received, by local planning authority (yearly data)
P135/P136	District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions on major and minor residential developments, by local planning authority (P135 quarterly, P136 yearly data)

P137/P138 District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted and speed of decisions on major and minor traveller caravans, by local planning authority (P137 quarterly, P138 yearly data)

County planning authorities

P139 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications received, decided and granted, by type of authority, England (quarterly and financial years' data)

P140/P141 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications decided and granted, by type of authority and type of development, England (P140 quarterly, P141 yearly data)

P142 'County matters' planning authorities - planning decisions, by speed of decision, England (quarterly and financial years' data)

P143/P144 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications received, decided and granted, speed of decisions and regulation 3 and 4 decisions, by local planning authority (P143 quarterly, P144 yearly data)

P145 'County matters' planning authorities - enforcement action, England (quarterly and financial years' data)

P146 'County matters' planning authorities - decisions on minerals applications, by type of development, England (financial years' data)

P147 'County matters' planning authorities - decisions on waste planning applications, by type of development, England (financial years' data)

P148 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications decided and granted, by nature of site, and type of development, England (yearly data)

P149 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted and speed of decisions, by type of development, England (yearly data)

P151a/b District and 'county matters' planning authorities' performance - speed of major development decisions (24 months' data)

P152a/b District and 'county matters' planning authorities' performance - quality of major development decisions (24 months' data)

P153 District planning authorities' performance - speed of non-major development decisions (24 months' data)

P154 District planning authorities' performance - quality of minor and other development decisions (24 months' data)

P155 'County matters' planning authorities' performance - speed of decisions on oil/gas developments (24 months' data)

Permitted development rights

PDR1 District planning authorities - applications for prior approvals for permitted developments, by local planning authority (all available quarters)

PDR2	District planning authorities - applications for prior approvals for permitted developments, England (all available quarters)
PDR3	'County matters' planning authorities - applications for prior approvals for permitted developments, by local planning authority (all available quarters)

Reference Tables

1	PS1 – England totals: January to March 2017
2	PS2 – England totals: January to March 2017
3	CPS1 – England totals January to March 2017

These tables can be accessed at

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

The following tables remain available from the link above but cannot be updated for the reasons given below.

P125/P126	District planning authorities – major planning decisions by speed, performance agreements and type of development: separate data on large- and small-scale major developments have not been collected since April 2014
P150	'County matters' planning authorities – reasons given for decisions taking over 8 weeks: data have not been collected since April 2014

Data held on Open Data Communities

A selection of data from the following planning live tables is held on **Open Data Communities** at <http://opendatacommunities.org>:

- P124A
- P132

The **Open Data mobile app** provides a range of statistics published by the department for the locality and is available for download free of charge from the [Windows App Store](#) and [Google Playstore](#). Any enquiries about the app should be sent to ODC@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

A planning statistics **email alert** is sent to anyone wishing to be informed each time some DCLG planning application statistics are published. To sign up for this free service, please send an email to planning.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Definitions

The *Plain English guide to the Planning System* explains how the planning system in England works. It is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plain-english-guide-to-the-planning-system>. In particular, the flow chart in Annex C on page 20 shows the stages in the planning application process.

Information on the definitions most relevant to the statistics included in this release and to the associated live tables is given below, in alphabetical order.

Advertisements

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

Applications received

The following applications are included:

(a) Valid applications for planning permission for development under Articles 5,6 and 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, SI 2015/595 (as amended) namely:

- (i) Applications for outline planning permission;
- (ii) Applications for approval of reserved matters;
- (iii) Applications for full planning permission.

This includes any application for time limited permission and any application that is accompanied by an environmental statement.

(b) Applications under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary or remove conditions (including applications for minor material amendments).

(c) Developments which would normally have been permitted under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 but have come before the local planning authority for determination because they require an Environmental Impact Assessment;

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

(e) Valid applications for planning permission for relevant demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area under section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

(f) Valid applications for consent to display advertisements under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/783 (as amended).

(g) Valid applications under regulations 3 and 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 SI 1992/1492 (as amended).

Change of use

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

- (i) the application does not concern a major development; and
- (ii a) no building or engineering work is involved; or
- (ii b) 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).

Conservation area consents

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

County level planning is currently undertaken by county councils, metropolitan districts, unitary authorities, London boroughs, national park authorities and the Ebbsfleet, London Legacy and Old Oak and Royal Park development corporations.

County matters - major developments

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

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

For the purpose of the CPS1/2 form, 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; and
- (iv) development carried out on a site having an area of one hectare or more.

District level planning is currently undertaken by metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities, London boroughs, national park authorities and Ebbsfleet, London Legacy and Old Oak and Royal Park development corporations. These authorities include applications for planning permissions on residential, offices, industrial, retail and householder developments.

District matters – major developments

For district matters applications, 'major development' means development involving any one or more of the following:

- The provision of dwellings where –
 - The number of dwellings to be provided is ten or more: or
 - The development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the number of dwellings to be provided is ten or more.
- The provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more: or
- Development carried out on a site having an area of one hectare or more.

Before 1 April 2014, the statistical returns distinguished between large-scale and small-scale major developments, but this breakdown of figures is no longer requested from local planning authorities as a result of the recent review of the returns.

District matters - minor developments

For dwellings, minor development is one where the number of dwellings to be provided is between one and nine inclusive on a site having an area of less than one hectare. Where the number of dwellings to be provided is not known, 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 created is less than 1,000 square metres or where the site area is less than one hectare. Decisions are classified as relating to a major/minor development on the basis of the development covered by the application which was decided.

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.

Householder developments

Householder developments (as referred to in some of the live tables, such as P123) 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. Granny annexes have been included with effect from 1 July 2014, having previously been recorded under dwellings. **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).

By definition, householder developments that *do not require* an application for planning permission are also excluded – e.g. for extensions, these include those for which permitted development rights exist, including larger householder extensions (as defined under ‘Permitted development rights’ in the *Definitions* section) for which local authority prior approval is needed, and those that satisfy other conditions within the General Permitted Development Order, for which prior approval

is not needed, and for which data are therefore not collected.

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.

Permitted development rights

Planning permission for some types of development has been granted nationally through the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. In some cases, if the legislation is complied with, developments can go ahead without the requirement to notify the local planning authority and hence no way of capturing data exists. In other cases, the General Permitted Development Order requires an application to the local planning authority to determine whether prior approval is required, and figures for seven such categories are collected for district matters:

- Larger householder extensions (greater than four metres but less than eight metres for detached dwelling houses, or three metres but less than six metres for other dwelling houses, as covered by the neighbour notification scheme as set out in paragraph A.4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 1)
- Offices to residential (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class O)
- Retail and *sui generis* uses to residential (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Classes M and N)
- Agricultural to residential (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q)
- To state-funded school or registered nursery from various (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class S; Class T)
- Storage or distribution centre to residential (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class P)
- All others - refers to all other types of development for which decisions on applications for prior approval had been made during the quarter.

Prior approvals for permitted developments

Prior approval means that a developer has to seek approval from the local planning authority that specified elements of the development are acceptable before work can proceed. The matters for prior approval vary depending on the type of development and these are set out in full in the relevant parts in Schedule 2 to the General Permitted Development Order. A local planning authority cannot consider any other matters when determining a prior approval application.

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 – such as for a school. 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.

Sui generis uses

This is the term used for uses that do not fall into any planning use class. According to https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/9/change_of_use, such uses include: betting offices/shops, pay day loan shops, theatres, larger houses in multiple occupation, hostels providing no significant element of care, scrap yards, petrol filling stations and shops selling and/or displaying motor vehicles, retail warehouse clubs, nightclubs, launderettes, taxi businesses, amusement centres and casinos.

Use categories

Decisions relating to 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'.

Data on housing approvals provided by Barbour ABI

Units granted residential planning permission are recorded when a residential development site receives:

- detailed residential planning permission; or
- approval of reserved matters.

The figures exclude elderly people's homes, hostels and student accommodation. They include mixed use developments (commercial and residential) involving more than ten residential units. They are for England only. Other details:

- Units from different phases of a single residential development site are included in these figures only when planning permission is obtained for that phase.
- To avoid double counting units on residential development sites with planning permission are excluded where the residential development site has already received a planning permission within the previous twelve months. Only the units from the most recent planning permission are included.
- Where multiple planning permissions are given to a residential development site in the same quarter, only the most recent planning permission is included for the purpose of counting units with permission.

It is not possible to use these annual figures to estimate the total stock of units on uncompleted sites with permission.

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 until the March quarter 2014, the PS1, PS2 and the Fee1 (revenue collected in respect of PS1 and PS2) returns were combined as a single return, the PSF return, with the Fee element being dropped from the June quarter 2014 but the PS1 and PS2 continuing. 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 PS1/2 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 returns placed on local authorities is not excessive. The analysis carried out by the department 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 PS1/2 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 in advance of figures being published. Where a response rate of 100 per cent is not achieved, estimates are imputed for some variables for non-responding district level authorities.

In the March quarter 2017, 339 out of 339 planning authorities (100 per cent) submitted district-level planning data and 164 out of 164 planning authorities (100 per cent) submitted county-level planning data in time for this publication.

Also, for this publication, data have been refreshed and re-imputed for the previous seven quarters going back to the April to June quarter of 2015. This takes account of data submitted or revised since figures were last published and is in line with departmental statisticians' agreed revisions policy for housing and planning statistics.

Some variables for the small number of non-responding authorities are imputed using data from similar authorities, although some information, such as the number of enforcement notices issued are not imputed. No imputation is carried out for county level planning. Data for individual local authorities are presented in some of the accompanying tables.

All figures in the commentary have been calculated using unrounded data. As a result, there may be some apparent discrepancies with rounded 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 application which are recorded on the PS1/2 and CPS1/2 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 returns, 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 over 98 per cent, 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 revision 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 PS1/2 and CPS1/2 returns following publication of the data. Data are revised for the previous ten quarters for the Autumn release and for three previous quarters for the other three releases each year. 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

small changes have been identified that do not substantially change the data, and are not regarded as big enough to warrant a change to the published figures, internal updates are maintained by the department.

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

Scale of revisions

Actual revisions to submitted data that are big enough to result in changes to published national figures are rare. However, due to the Government's policy of designating authorities based on their performance over the past two years, there are circumstances where it is more important than usual for the detailed published figures to be accurate at a local authority level. In such circumstances, we allow authorities to resubmit missing or incorrect data for previous quarters, particularly for Live Tables P151, P152, P153 and P154. These local authority level changes would not normally merit a non-scheduled revision but may be recorded or marked in the published table with a change or footnote. This is to improve the transparency of the performance system in this particular policy area rather than indicating a change to the general approach to making revisions to published statistics. In some cases, the department may require supporting evidence from a local planning authority before it makes these changes, as part of the data checking process.

Uses of the data

The data in this statistical release are used for a variety of purposes. Ministers and officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government use this information for policy formulation and development and for decisions on designating poorly-performing local planning authorities. The figures are also of interest to the Planning Inspectorate, local government, planning and development professionals, academics, house builders and developers, other businesses, charities and campaign groups, members of the public and the media. Examples of the uses made of the data by these users are given in the user engagement strategy and planning and land use statistics referred to below. The data are also used to ensure democratic accountability in answers to Parliamentary Questions, ministerial correspondence, Freedom of Information Act cases and queries from the public.

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 statistics 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>

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate. It is DCLG's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics.

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>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

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

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