



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Official Statistics 16 December 2021

Introduction

This statistical release provides summary information on appeals, which represent the highest volume (in terms of number of cases) of the work of the Planning Inspectorate.

These statistics are produced each month and the focus is on timeliness, as that is an area in which stakeholders have an interest. Information on the decisions that have been made is also included; and on the number of Inspectors available to make those decisions.

These statistics have been published to ensure everyone has equal access to the information and to support the Planning Inspectorate's commitment to release information where possible.

This statistical bulletin provides¹:

- Appeals decisions and events held from December 2020 and November 2021
- The time taken to reach those decisions
- Number of open cases
- Number of Inspectors
- Number of virtual events

The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Inspectorate makes decision and provides recommendations and advice on a range of land use planning-related issues across England. We do this in a fair, open, and timely way.

The Planning Inspectorate deals with planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England. The Planning Inspectorate is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, previously known as the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

¹ See Annex A for breakdown of what has been included in recent releases.

Summary

Performance

The mean average time to make a decision, across all cases in the last 12 months (Dec-20 to Nov-21), was 28 weeks. The median time was 23 weeks.

The median time to decide a case reduced by 1 week between October and November, with the November median being 25.4 weeks.

Between December 2020 and March 2021 there was a reduction in the median time to decision. The median time to decision for each of the last four months is higher than any of the previous eight months.

Median timeliness by procedure type is shown in the summary table below.

Procedure type	Last 12 months	November 2021
Written Representations	22 weeks	25 weeks
Hearings	48 weeks	48 weeks
Inquiries	62 weeks	81 weeks

The median time for Planning cases was, apart from February and March 21, above 20 weeks for the last 12 months. Across the whole year, the median time to decision is 22 weeks.

Enforcement decisions made in the last 12 months had a median decision time of 35 weeks. Looking at the annual totals, the median and mean time to decision for specialist decisions have been broadly the same as for enforcement decisions, and longer than the median for planning decisions. Since February 21 there has been a change in this trend, with Specialist cases being quicker than Enforcement

The median time for planning appeals decided by inquiry under the Rosewell Process over the 12 months to November 21 is 33 weeks. This is quicker than other types of casework decided by inquiry.

Decisions

The Planning Inspectorate has made 17,150 appeal decisions² in the last 12 months, an average of 1,430 per month. The number of decisions in November was above average, 1,569 decisions were issued. This is the highest number of decisions issued since March 2021.

Written representations decisions had recovered to pre-pandemic levels by December 2020 (pre-pandemic being between approximately 1,600 and 2,000 decisions per month). Decisions by this procedure were higher in November 2021 (1,472) than October 2021 (1,189).

There were 646 decisions made on hearings during the last 12 months. Decisions for hearings since December 20 have ranged between approximately 40 and 80 per month. Pre-pandemic levels for hearing decisions were between 50 and 100 decisions per month.

² The appeal types include planning & related appeals, Enforcement and Specialist casework (covering a range of casework types). Please note that some previous releases covered only Rights of Way orders within Specialist casework. Annex A details the scope of previous releases, Annex D the scope of this release and Background Notes has further information.

There were 440 decisions made on inquiries during the last 12 months. Decisions for inquiries since December 20 have ranged between approximately 20 and 60. Pre-pandemic levels for inquiry decisions were between 15 and 90 decisions per month.

Open Cases

At the end of November 21, the Planning Inspectorate had over thirteen thousand open cases³ (13,029). This is higher than the previous month; the number of open cases has been rising through the year.

Planning Inspectors

There were 360 Planning Inspectors employed by the Inspectorate in December 2021 with a full-time equivalent of 232.

³ Open cases are any that have been received but on which a decision has not yet been made/ issued. Cases included comprise Planning, Enforcement, and the following Specialist cases: Common Land, Environment, Purchase Notice and Rights of Way, Tree Preservation Orders, Hedgerows and High Hedges cases.

Note that previous publications excluded Tree Preservation Order, Hedgerow and High Hedge cases from open cases totals. See Background Quality report for more information.

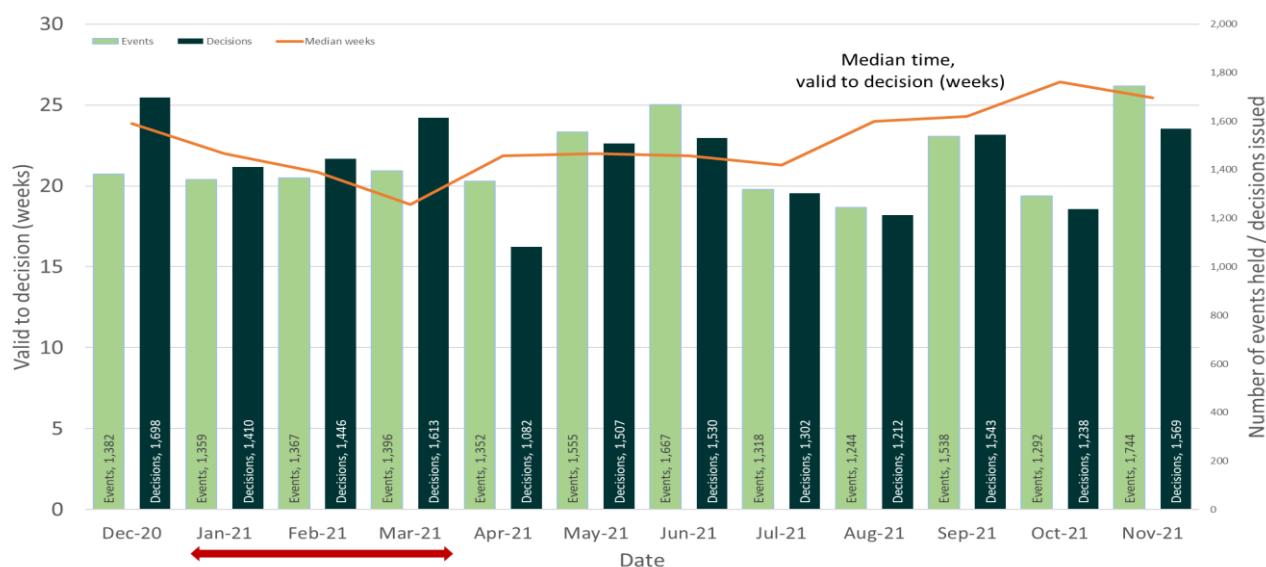
Decisions, Events & Open Cases

The number of decisions issued in November 2021 was 1,569; this is the highest number of decisions issued since March 2021.

The number of events held in November 21 was 1,744, this is the highest number of events held in any of the past 12 months.

The median⁴ time to decide a case decreased by 1 week between October and November 21, with the November median being 25.4 weeks. This is the first reduction seen since July 2021; the median remains higher than it was at any time from December 2020 to September 2021.

Figure 1: Number of events held⁵, decisions issued and median time between valid date & decision date; Dec-20 to Nov-21



Source: Horizon, Picaso, Inspector Scheduling System

Note – Red arrow indicates period when national lockdown was in effect

Table 1: Number of events held, decisions issued and median time between valid date & decision date; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Note: This table includes revisions to previously published data. Please see Annex E for further information

Month	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Events Held	1,382	1,359	1,367	1,396	1,352	1,555	1,667	1,318	1,244	1,538	1,292	1,744	17,214
Decisions	1,698	1,410	1,446	1,613	1,082	1,507	1,530	1,302	1,212	1,543	1,238	1,569	17,150
Median	23.9	22.0	20.9	18.9	21.9	22.0	21.9	21.3	24.0	24.3	26.4	25.4	23.0

Source: Horizon, Picaso, Inspector Scheduling System.

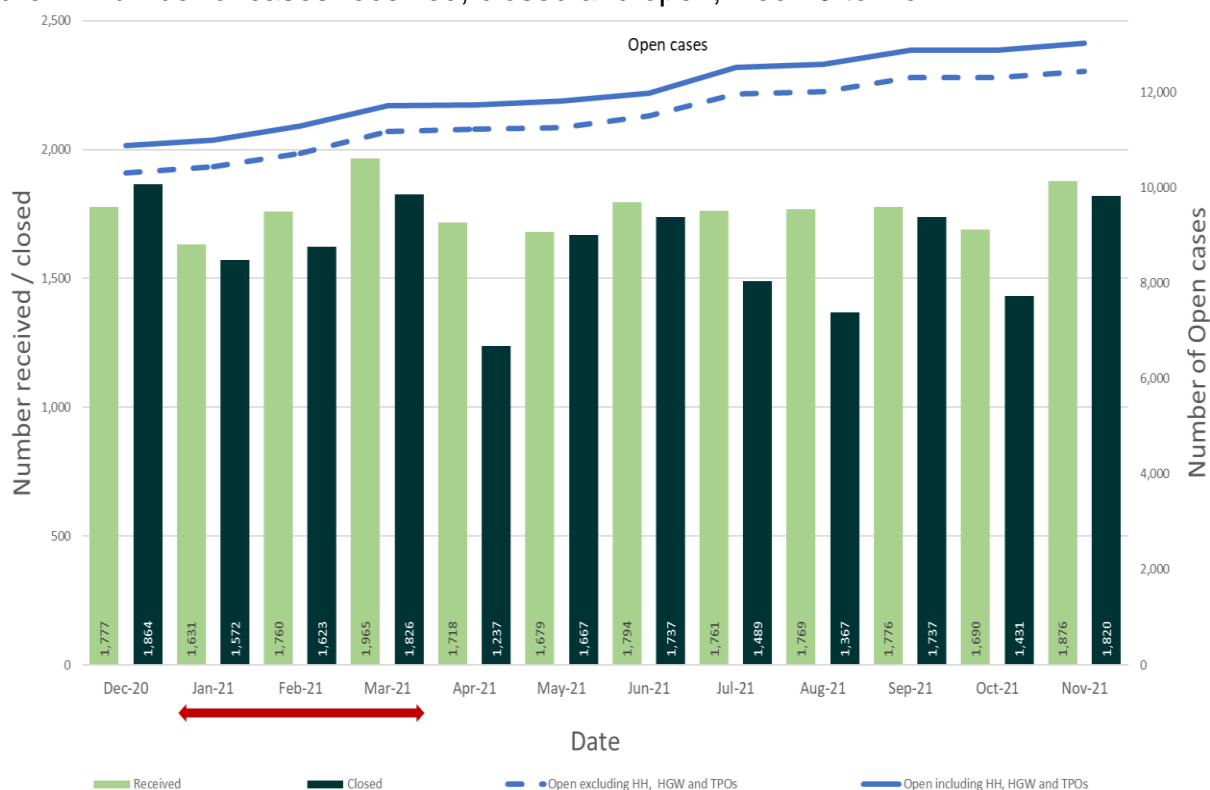
The number of open cases stands at its highest point in the last 12 months, at 13,029 cases; and has been rising through the year. This is because most months, more appeals are received than are closed. The numbers of appeals received averages at 1,743 per month, over the last 12 months. The number closed averages just above 1,600 per month, over the last 12 months.

⁴ See the section on Decision timeliness for more, including definitions of the average measures used in this release.

⁵ A site visit, hearing, or inquiry. From April 2020 onwards all hearings and inquiries have been held virtually.

Note – The number of cases closed is higher than the number of decisions, as it includes cases where an appeal is withdrawn, notice is withdrawn, or the appeal is turned away.

Figure 2: Number of cases received, closed and open; Dec-20 to Nov-21



Source: Horizon and Picaso

Note – Red arrows indicate period when national lockdown was in effect

Data note 1 - the count of open cases from December 2020 onwards has been revised to include some specialist casework types that were previously excluded: High Hedge (HH), Hedgerow (HGW) and Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

Data note 2 – there is a known anomaly that means that the number of open cases does not exactly follow the volumes of cases closed or received (for example the number of open cases can increase between months even though the number closed exceeded the number received). The main reasons for this have been identified and are detailed in the Background Quality Report.

Table 2: Number of cases received, closed and open; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Note: This table includes revisions to previously published data. Please see Annex E for further information

Month	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Received	1,777	1,631	1,760	1,965	1,718	1,679	1,794	1,761	1,769	1,776	1,690	1,876	21,196
Closed	1,864	1,572	1,623	1,826	1,237	1,667	1,737	1,489	1,367	1,737	1,431	1,820	19,370
Open (excl. HH, HGW, TPO)	10,314	10,447	10,719	11,183	11,223	11,266	11,509	11,961	12,015	12,314	12,314	12,433	
Open(All)	10,880	11,001	11,293	11,725	11,733	11,823	11,987	12,525	12,592	12,873	12,887	13,029	

Source: Horizon and Picaso

Number of Decisions

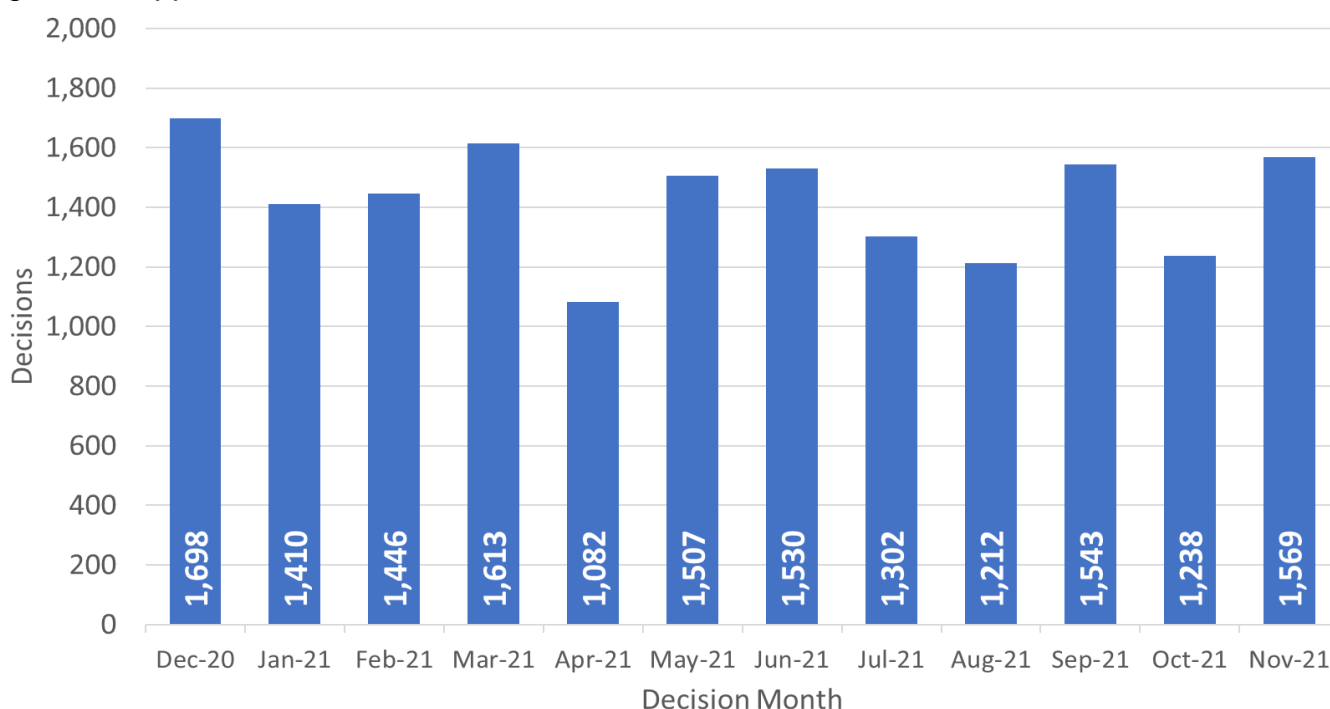
The Planning Inspectorate has made 17,150 appeal decisions⁶ in the last 12 months, an average of over 1,400 per month. Table 3 below shows the monthly breakdown with fewer decisions for the months of April, July, August, and October 2021. This is thought to be due, in part, to the impact of staff taking more leave in 2021 than in 2020; and to an annual training event that took place in October 2021.

Table 3: Appeal Decisions; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Month	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Decisions	1,698	1,410	1,446	1,613	1,082	1,507	1,530	1,302	1,212	1,543	1,238	1,569	17,150

Source: Horizon and Picaso.

Figure 3 – Appeal Decisions; Dec-20 to Nov-21



Source: Horizon and Picaso

Decisions by procedure and case type

Planning Inspectors work on a broader range of work than the appeals featured in this Release. For example, they also work on examining Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project applications, Local Plans⁷, Compulsory Purchase Order applications and many other specialist licencing/application types.

Table 4 below gives the numbers of appeal decisions made broken down by whether the case was dealt with by written representations, hearings, or inquiries.

The large majority of decisions (16,064) were made on written representations. This is about ninety four percent of all appeal decisions made. Table 4 shows that written representations

⁶ The appeal types include planning & related appeals, Enforcement and Specialist casework (covering a range of casework types). Please note that some previous releases covered only Rights of Way orders within Specialist casework. Annex A details the scope of previous releases, Annex D the scope of this release and Background Notes has further information.

⁷ Data on volumes for Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects and Local Plans can be seen here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-statistics> (Tables 1.1 and 1.2)

decisions had recovered to pre-pandemic levels by December 2020 (pre-pandemic being between approximately 1,600 and 2,000 decisions per month). Decisions in July 2021 (1,199), August 2021 (1,103) and October 2021 (1,189) were low, with only April 2021 (994) having fewer written representation decisions issued.

There were 646 decisions made on hearings during the last 12 months and during November 47 decisions were issued which is slightly lower than the average of 54 decisions over the past 12 months. Pre-pandemic levels for hearing decisions were between 50 and 100 decisions per month.

There were 440 decisions made on inquiries during the last 12 months and during November 2021 50 decisions were issued which is higher than the average of 37 decisions over the past 12 months. Pre-pandemic levels for inquiry decisions were between 15 and 90 decisions per month.

Table 4: Appeal Decisions by Procedure and Casework Category; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Month	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Total
Written Representations	1,612	1,326	1,383	1,527	995	1,391	1,394	1,199	1,103	1,473	1,189	1,472	16,064
Hearings	60	58	44	53	52	64	80	66	51	40	31	47	646
Inquiries	26	26	19	33	35	52	56	37	58	30	18	50	440
Total	1,698	1,410	1,446	1,613	1,082	1,507	1,530	1,302	1,212	1,543	1,238	1,569	17,150
Month	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Total
Planning	1,463	1,185	1,242	1,413	938	1,286	1,269	1,078	972	1,365	1,034	1,346	14,591
Enforcement	186	164	112	150	100	161	200	179	187	148	154	195	1,936
Specialist	49	61	92	50	44	60	61	45	53	30	50	28	623
Total	1,698	1,410	1,446	1,613	1,082	1,507	1,530	1,302	1,212	1,543	1,238	1,569	17,150

Source: Horizon and Picaso.

What are Planning cases? The Planning category includes s78 planning appeals, householder appeals, commercial appeals, listed building consent appeals, advertisement appeals, s106 planning obligation appeals and Called In Planning Applications.

What are Enforcement cases? Enforcement covers enforcement appeals (i.e., appeals against the issue of an enforcement notice by a local planning authority), enforcement listed building notice appeals and lawful development certificate appeals.

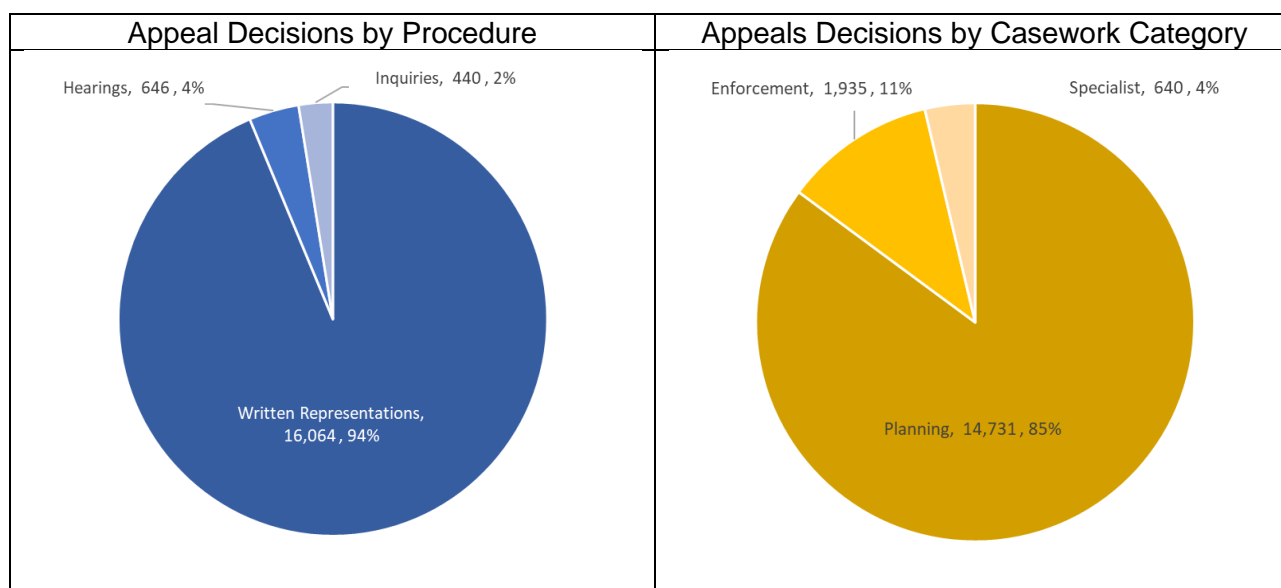
What are Specialist cases? This category covers a wide range of different types of casework including Common Land, Environment, Purchase Notice, Rights of Way orders (including Schedule 14 cases), Tree Preservation Orders, Hedgerows and High Hedges cases.

The large majority of cases were planning (14,591). This is about eighty-five per cent of all appeal decisions made. There were 1,936 enforcement decisions and 623 specialist decisions. These totals are also shown in Table 4 above and Figure 4 below.

Trends for planning decisions show similar patterns to written representations. The number of enforcement decisions varies around an average of 160 decisions per month. June's total

(200) was double that of April (100). Specialist casework figures continue to vary each month, from a low of 30 (September 2021) to a high of 92 (February 2021).

Figure 4 – Appeal Decisions by Procedure and Casework Category; Dec-20 to Nov-21



Source: Horizon and Picaso

Decision timeliness

It is important for people to know how long an appeal is going to take, so that they can make plans and decisions based on this information. This section covers the timeliness of decisions (i.e., how long it takes to make a decision) across appeal casework. In addition to an overall measure, timeliness is analysed by procedure type and casework category, as timeliness varies a great deal depending on these characteristics.

Table 5 below shows that the mean average time to make a decision, across all cases in the last 12 months, was 28 weeks. Figure 5 shows the mean has been above 25 weeks for the last 12 months, except for March 21; and has generally been increasing since then, with the latest month showing 31 weeks; and the last four months being higher than any of the previous eight months. The standard deviation – a measure of variation – is comparable to performance seen over the last 12 months.

How is timeliness measured?

The time to make a decision is measured from the time the Inspectorate have enough information for the case to proceed (it is deemed 'valid') to the time a decision letter is issued. A large majority of cases are 'validated' (the difference between the date the appeal is received, and the validation process being completed) in a week or less.

The decisions made in a given month will include those that started many months before, and thus do not give an accurate indication of how decisions submitted, or deemed 'valid' in that month, will take.

Table 5 also shows the median time for the last 12 months is 23 weeks. Each month the median is less than the mean, due to the larger impact on the mean of very long cases.

The median timeliness was highest at 26 weeks in October 2021. Between December 2020 and March 2021 there was a reduction in the median time to decision, down to a low in March 2021 of 19 weeks. As with the mean, the median time to decision for each of the last four months is higher than any of the previous eight months.

Also included in the table is the *standard deviation* of decision timeliness. A lower standard deviation would demonstrate greater consistency in the Planning Inspectorate’s decision timeliness. The data shows that the variability was mostly lower at the end of 2020 and in the early months of 2021 but then increased.

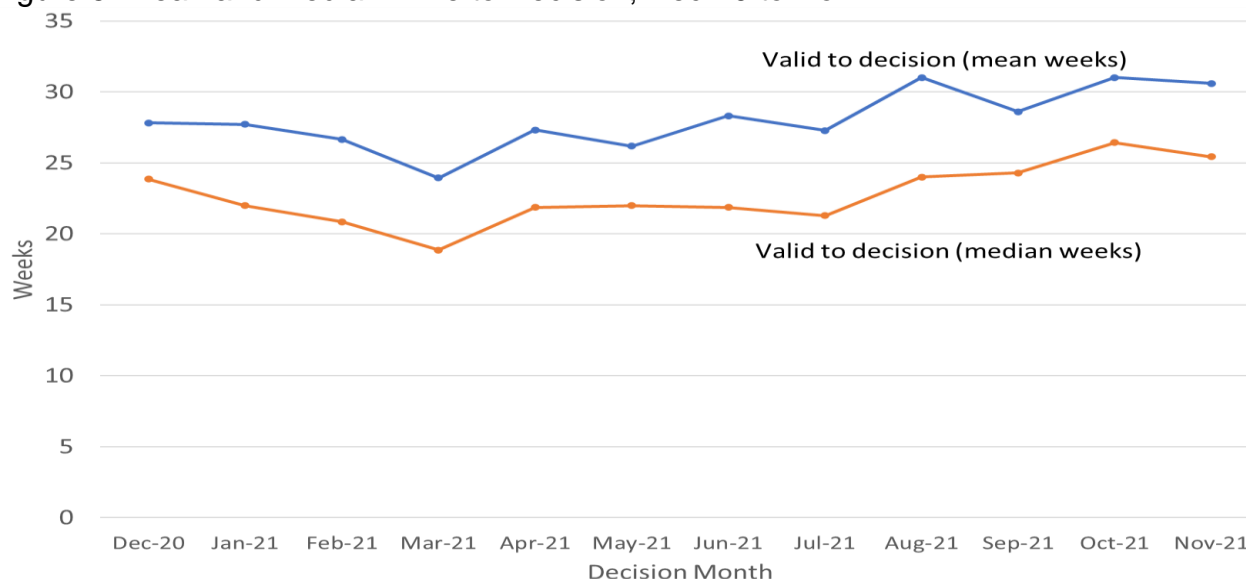
What are mean, median, and standard deviation?	
Measure	Definition
Mean	The total time taken divided by the number of cases. Also referred to as the ‘average’. A measure of how long each case would take, if the total time taken was spread evenly across all cases.
Median	This is the time taken by the ‘middle’ case if all cases were sorted from quickest to longest
Standard deviation	This is a measure of variability or spread. It is calculated by examining how much each value differs from the mean. A higher standard deviation means the individual decision times vary more widely around the mean.

Table 5: Mean, Median and Standard Deviation of Time to Decision; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Month	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	27.8	27.7	26.7	23.9	27.3	26.2	28.3	27.3	31.0	28.6	31.0	30.6	28.0
Valid to Decision (median weeks)	23.9	22.0	20.9	18.9	21.9	22.0	21.9	21.3	24.0	24.3	26.4	25.4	23.0
Standard Deviation (weeks)	15.6	18.1	16.9	16.0	18.7	16.7	19.7	18.5	23.3	16.7	19.0	21.0	18.0

Source: Horizon and Picaso

Figure 5: Mean and Median Time to Decision; Dec-20 to Nov-21



Source: Horizon and Picaso

Procedure Type

Table 6 below shows decision timeliness broken down by the procedure type. Hearings and inquiries take longer than written representations – with inquiries taking more than twice as long as written representations. Because 19 of every 20 cases are by written representation,

the timeliness measures for written representations are similar to the measure across all cases.

Where a small number of cases has been decided, the average timeliness (whether mean or median) is less meaningful as a measure than where there are many cases. Those areas shaded in the table below should be treated with caution as there are fewer than 20 cases decided.

Median times are less affected by large values, than mean times, so are the focus of this commentary. The median time for written representations over the 12 months to November 2021 is 22 weeks; the last three months have longer median time to decision than the previous nine months. The median time for inquiries over the 12 months to November 2021 is over a year - 62 weeks. The median time for hearings is less at 48 weeks. For each of these procedure types, the mean is higher than the median as it is more affected by the longest cases.

Table 6: Mean and Median Time to Decision, with Standard Deviation, by Procedure; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Note: where the number of decisions issued is fewer than 20, the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful. This applies to the number of inquiries in Feb-21 and Oct-21.

Measure	Procedure	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	Written Representations	26.6	25.8	25.3	22.1	24.1	24.1	25.0	24.5	27.3	27.3	29.6	28.0	26.0
	Hearings	49.6	59.8	47.5	56.7	63.8	42.9	57.0	50.1	49.8	57.1	57.8	60.8	53.3
	Inquiries	52.8	53.9	76.3	57.6	64.4	61.7	70.9	77.5	86.0	56.5	77.6	80.3	68.9
	All Cases	27.8	27.7	26.7	23.9	27.3	26.2	28.3	27.3	31.0	28.6	31.0	30.6	28.0
Valid to Decision (median weeks)	Written Representations	23.1	21.3	20.4	18.4	20.9	21.1	20.7	20.4	23.0	23.6	25.9	24.6	22.1
	Hearings	43.9	51.5	49.0	52.4	62.0	39.6	61.3	44.1	43.9	50.4	54.3	47.9	48.4
	Inquiries	40.1	47.3	68.1	41.3	62.4	66.0	64.6	79.0	92.6	35.6	50.4	80.9	62.4
	All Cases	23.9	22.0	20.9	18.9	21.9	22.0	21.9	21.3	24.0	24.3	26.4	25.4	23.0
Standard Deviation (weeks)	Written Representations	14.0	15.2	14.8	12.6	13.6	14.0	13.9	13.3	16.0	14.1	16.4	15.6	14.4
	Hearings	20.0	29.1	20.9	26.3	26.9	18.4	21.7	19.6	27.5	27.5	23.0	38.6	25.6
	Inquiries	31.0	30.5	36.9	31.3	27.8	26.1	42.8	43.8	47.2	40.8	50.9	41.8	39.5
	All Cases	15.6	18.1	16.9	16.0	18.7	16.7	19.7	18.5	23.3	16.7	19.0	21.0	18.0
Decisions	Written Representations	1,612	1,326	1,383	1,527	995	1,391	1,394	1,199	1,103	1,473	1,189	1,472	16,064
	Hearings	60	58	44	53	52	64	80	66	51	40	31	47	646
	Inquiries	26	26	19	33	35	52	56	37	58	30	18	50	440
	All Cases	1,698	1,410	1,446	1,613	1,082	1,507	1,530	1,302	1,212	1,543	1,238	1,569	17,150

Source: Horizon and Picaso.

The standard deviation information indicates that for all three procedures, there is considerable variation, meaning times are widely spread about the mean. For written representations, the amount of variation appears to have increased, with the last four month's higher (three above 16) than the previous eight months (14 or lower). Hearings have experienced higher month to month changes. For inquiries the last six months have been higher (therefore more variable) than previous six months (last six months over 40; previous seven months 37 or lower).

Casework Category

The nature of the cases the Planning Inspectorate deal with varies widely and several factors play a part in determining how long it takes to make a decision. One such factor is the type of casework. Table 7 below shows the time taken to decide, in planning cases, in enforcement cases, and in specialist⁸ cases, as does Figure 6.

The median time to decision for planning cases (there are many more of these decisions than in the other categories) is lower than for other casework categories, apart from in March 21 and May 21. Table 7 and Figure 6 shows the median time for planning cases was, apart from February and March 2021, above 20 weeks for the last 12 months. Across the whole year, the median time to decision is 22 weeks for these cases.

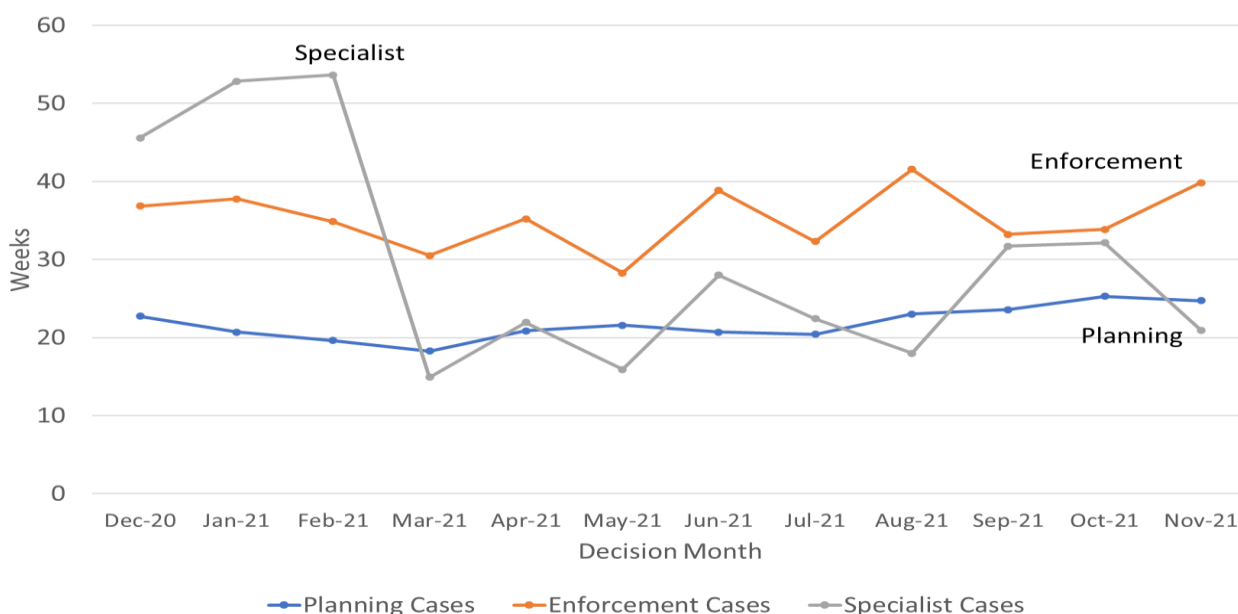
Table 7: Decisions, Mean, Median and Standard Deviation of Time to Decision – Planning, Enforcement, Specialist Cases; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Note: This table includes revisions to previously published data. Please see Annex E for further information

Casework Category	Measure	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Planning Cases	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	25.4	24.6	23.2	21.9	24.7	24.4	25.2	24.4	26.3	26.9	28.3	27.2	25.3
	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	22.7	20.7	19.6	18.3	20.9	21.6	20.7	20.4	23.0	23.6	25.3	24.7	22.0
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	12.3	12.3	11.6	12.4	14.6	13.0	15.2	13.8	14.8	13.5	13.6	14.1	13.3
Enforcement Cases	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	42.1	43.8	42.7	41.6	47.6	40.6	45.7	42.7	54.5	40.7	43.5	53.4	44.5
	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	36.9	37.8	34.9	30.5	35.2	28.3	38.9	32.3	41.6	33.2	33.9	39.9	35.1
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	23.1	29.0	26.7	26.2	29.4	28.9	29.7	29.4	38.3	26.3	30.2	37.6	29.6
Specialist Cases	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	45.3	46.1	53.7	28.7	36.1	24.7	36.6	34.3	35.2	48.7	48.9	33.3	40.0
	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	45.6	52.9	53.6	14.9	21.9	15.9	28.0	22.4	18.0	31.7	32.1	20.9	31.0
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	24.6	33.7	24.7	28.2	30.3	21.6	27.7	27.4	29.9	36.1	36.6	32.6	29.8

Source: Horizon and Picaso.

Figure 6 – Median Time to Decision by Casework Category: Dec-20 to Nov-21



Source: Horizon and Picaso

⁸ See the box in the section on Number of Decisions for what these categories of casework include.

Annex B gives information on mean and median time to decision, with standard deviation, for the three procedure types, split by planning, enforcement, and specialist casework categories.

Enforcement decisions made in the last 12 months had a median decision time of 35 weeks. For the last 12 months the mean is 44 weeks. The median time for enforcement decisions is longer than the median decision time for planning cases; this has been consistently so each month through the year.

There are considerably fewer specialist cases which means results are more liable to be distorted by extreme values. Looking at the annual totals, the median and mean time to decision for specialist decisions had been broadly the same as for enforcement decisions, and longer than the median for planning decisions. Since February 2021 there has been a change in this trend, with Specialist cases being quicker than Enforcement. The mix of casework being decided under the Specialist group has changed, and there was a concentrated effort to decide a high number of older Tree Preservation Order (TPO) cases that has influenced performance figures.

Note that the Inspectorate publishes each month, information on the mean and median times from valid to decision, for selected appeal types. The information published also breaks down the time for each stage of the process. See Annex C⁹ for further details.

Planning Inquiry Decisions

For planning appeals decided by the inquiry process, The Planning Inspectorate has been implementing recommendations from the Rosewell review.

The median time for inquiries over the 12 months to November 21 is 34 weeks, with the mean being marginally higher at 38 weeks. The median for November 2021 has fallen below 30 weeks, in October the median was 43 weeks; however in each of the last five months there have been fewer than 20 decisions which means these measures are less reliable.

Table 8: Decisions, Mean and Median Time to Decision, Planning Inquiry Cases under Rosewell Process; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Note: where there are fewer than 20 decisions, the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful.

Measure	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Decisions	18	13	8	15	17	16	30	11	15	19	8	19	189
Mean (weeks)	35.3	36.5	40.7	36.7	53.5	34.3	40.7	32.0	39.6	30.5	40.0	36.8	38.4
Median (weeks)	39.4	40.3	40.7	33.7	51.9	30.1	33.9	29.1	25.1	26.9	43.2	28.6	33.0
St. Dev. (weeks)	10.2	12.2	7.9	12.0	31.1	9.9	22.1	12.0	41.9	10.7	13.5	18.7	20.8

Most inquiry decisions now being issued are under the revised 'Rosewell'¹⁰ process but some inquiries, for example those that are linked together with associated enforcement cases, do not follow the Rosewell process.

Table 9: Decisions, Planning Inquiry Cases under non-Rosewell Process; Dec-20 to Nov-21

Month	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Decisions	0	1	1	1	1	4	7	2	3	1	0	0	21

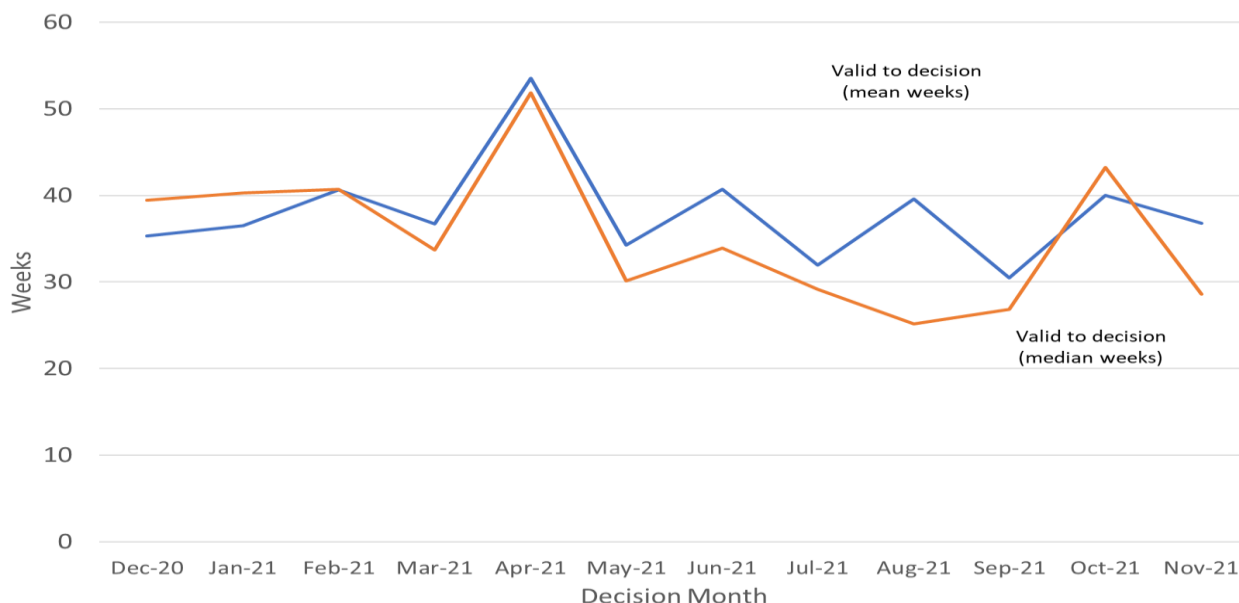
Source: Horizon

⁹ Data also published on gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appeals-average-timescales-for-arranging-inquiries-and-hearings>

¹⁰ The 'Rosewell' process introduced changes to how the inquiry event date was agreed and a firm timetable for submission of documentation. Further information on what the Rosewell Review concluded is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-planning-appeal-inquiries-report>

Figure 7 below shows the mean and median time to decision for planning inquiry cases under the Rosewell process.

Figure 7: Mean, Median Time to Decision, Rosewell Inquiry Process; Dec-20 to Nov-21



Source: Horizon

Open Cases

At the end of November 2021, the Planning Inspectorate had over thirteen thousand cases open¹¹ (13,029). This is higher than the previous month; the number of open cases has been rising through the year.

The open cases comprised almost 11,100 cases being handled through written representations; just over 1,150 through hearings; and just under 700 through inquiries. This is not the number of 'live' hearings and inquiries since it includes cases where the event (hearing or inquiry) has yet to start, as well as those where the event has finished but the decision has yet to be issued.

For each procedure type, there are more cases with an event scheduled but not yet started, than at any other stage in the process. Event refers to either a site visit, hearing, or inquiry.

¹¹ Open cases are any that have been received but on which a decision has not yet been made/ issued. Cases included comprise Planning, Enforcement, and the following Specialist cases: Common Land, Environment, Purchase Notice and Rights of Way, Tree Preservation Orders, Hedgerows and High Hedges cases. Note that previous publications excluded Tree Preservation Order, Hedgerow and High Hedge cases from open cases totals. See Background Quality report for more information.

Table 10: Open cases by procedure and stage, as of end of November 2021

Procedure	Case received but yet to be deemed valid	Case deemed valid, event date yet to be set / in the future	Event complete but decision not yet issued	Total
Written Representations	1,200	8,298	1,559	11,057
Hearings	81	902	177	1,160
Inquiries	1	516	153	670
Total	1,282	9,849	1,898	13,029

Source: Horizon

Note there are 142 cases that have no procedure type recorded (see Background Quality Report for more detail) These are included in the total row but excluded from the breakdown by procedure.

Data note 1 - the count of open cases from December 2020 onwards has been revised to include some specialist casework types that were previously excluded: High Hedge (HH), Hedgerow (HGW) and Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

Data note 2 – there is a known anomaly that means that the number of open cases does not exactly follow the volumes of cases closed or received (for example the number of open cases can increase between months even though the number closed exceeded the number received). The main reasons for this have been identified and are detailed in the Background Quality Report.

Inspectors

Table 11 below shows the number of inspectors in the Planning Inspectorate in each month from December 2020 to November 2021¹². This includes headcount (i.e., the number of different individuals) and full-time equivalents (FTE) where those working part time are counted in proportion with their contracted hours. There were 360 Planning Inspectors employed by the Inspectorate in November 2021 – with a full-time equivalent of 323.

By both measures (headcount and FTE) the highest Inspector resource in the last 12 months was last month; and by both, the number at the end of January 2021 was the lowest.

Table 11: Planning Inspectors – Headcount and FTE; Dec-20 to Nov-21 (at end of month)

Month	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21
Headcount	345	343	345	352	355	353	349	347	346	345	351	360
FTE	308.1	305.4	308.1	314.4	317.0	314.4	310.8	308.4	307.8	306.6	314.0	323.2

Source: SAP HR

As above, Planning Inspectors work on a broader range of work than the appeals featured in this Release. They also work on applications and examinations. Please note that data on Planning Inspectors is only applicable to salaried employees (it does not include fixed term contract Inspectors or non-salaried Inspectors).

¹² Data as at the last day of the month.

Revisions to previous release

Data in the previous statistical release may have changed between being published last month and what is shown this month. Where changes have occurred (the volume numbers have changed by more than five, or the timeliness measures have changed by greater than 0.5 weeks) the tables in this release detail any revisions. Further information about revisions can be found in Annex E and the separate Background Quality Report.

Annex A – Content of ad-hoc Statistical Releases, 2020-21

Note: The Table below covers ad-hoc statistical releases. From November 2020 onwards, the content is fixed, so is the same as this publication. From November 2021 data on virtual event will no longer be included in the release.

Date	March 2020	April 2020	July 2020	September 2020	October 2020
Content	<p>Appeals receipts and decisions in the last 12 and 24 months (1st March 2018 – 29th February 2020)</p> <p>Number of section 78 Planning Appeals received / decided / within target that used the written representation method in the last 12 months (1st March 2019 – 29th February 2020)</p> <p>Number of dwellings decided, and number of dwellings allowed by appeal decisions between 1st January 2017 and 31st December 2019.</p> <p>Number of Planning Inspectors employed by the Planning Inspectorate at the end of each quarter between 31st March 2017 and 31st December 2019.</p>	<p>Appeals receipts and decisions between 17th March 2020 and 22nd April 2020</p> <p>Live appeals in the system as at 23rd April 2020</p> <p>Number of appeals involving housing within the system as at 23rd April 2020</p> <p>Virtual site visits</p>	<p>Appeals decisions between 17th March 2020 and 22nd June 2020</p> <p>Number of open cases</p> <p>Number of virtual events</p> <p>Number of appeals involving housing within the system as at 12th June 2020</p>	<p>Appeals decisions between 17th March 2020 and 21st September 2020</p> <p>Number of open cases</p> <p>Number of virtual events</p>	<p>Appeals decisions from October 2019 to September 2020</p> <p>Number of open cases</p> <p>Number of virtual events</p>
Scope	<p>England only</p> <p>Planning cases, Enforcement cases and Rights of Way orders</p>	<p>England only</p> <p>Planning cases, Enforcement cases and Rights of Way orders</p>	<p>England only</p> <p>Planning cases, Enforcement cases and Rights of Way orders</p>	<p>England only</p> <p>Planning cases, Enforcement cases and Rights of Way orders</p>	<p>England only</p> <p>Planning cases, Enforcement cases, Specialist cases: Common Land, Rights of Way orders, Tree Preservation Orders, High Hedges appeals and Hedgerow appeals</p>

Annex B – Mean and median time to decision, with standard deviation, for planning, enforcement, and specialist casework

Planning

Note: where there are fewer than 20 decisions, the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful.

Procedure	Measure	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	1,397	1,134	1,200	1,359	886	1,215	1,193	1,021	917	1,323	1,001	1,290	13,936
	Mean Average Weeks	24.6	23.7	22.5	21.0	22.9	23.4	23.5	23.3	25.2	26.2	27.5	26.3	24.4
	Median Average Weeks	22.0	20.4	19.4	18.0	20.1	21.0	20.0	19.7	22.4	23.1	25.0	24.1	21.4
	Standard Deviation	11.4	10.8	10.5	10.9	11.2	11.7	11.9	11.3	12.0	12.3	12.7	12.1	11.7
Hearings	Decisions	48	37	33	38	34	51	39	44	37	22	25	37	445
	Mean Average Weeks	45.9	46.2	41.2	48.0	56.1	40.7	49.2	43.1	41.3	54.7	54.7	54.3	46.5
	Median Average Weeks	43.0	46.6	46.4	44.8	56.9	37.4	45.4	42.0	37.4	50.4	54.3	45.9	43.1
	Standard Deviation	17.4	23.0	16.7	24.6	23.6	18.9	20.7	16.5	18.6	24.0	20.6	34.1	22.2
Inquires	Decisions	18	14	9	16	18	20	37	13	18	20	8	19	210
	Mean Average Weeks	35.3	40.4	50.6	35.8	54.9	44.8	53.5	53.5	49.2	36.6	40.0	36.8	45.4
	Median Average Weeks	39.4	40.7	42.9	33.6	52.4	32.9	36.9	30.9	30.0	27.9	43.2	28.6	35.6
	Standard Deviation	10.2	18.4	29.0	12.1	30.7	23.5	37.3	51.6	51.2	28.8	13.5	18.7	31.3
All Planning Cases	Decisions	1,463	1,185	1,242	1,413	938	1,286	1,269	1,078	972	1,365	1,034	1,346	14,591
	Mean Average Weeks	25.4	24.6	23.2	21.9	24.7	24.4	25.2	24.4	26.3	26.9	28.3	27.2	25.3
	Median Average Weeks	22.7	20.7	19.6	18.3	20.9	21.6	20.7	20.4	23.0	23.6	25.3	24.7	22.0
	Standard Deviation	12.3	12.3	11.6	12.4	14.6	13.0	15.2	13.8	14.8	13.5	13.6	14.1	13.3

- The median time to decision for planning written representations has generally been increasing since March 2021, as has the mean.
- The standard deviation of time to decision for planning written representations has generally been slightly increasing since February 2021, indicating more variability in the time to decision.
- The median for planning hearings has been above 50 weeks for the last three months. This higher median reflects a backlog of cases built up by the impact of the pandemic and setting up the processes for holding events virtually; and is accompanied by an increase in the standard deviation.
- Both the mean and median for planning inquiries has been generally reducing over the last 12 months, not always from month to month.

Enforcement

Note: where there are fewer than 20 decisions, the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful.

Procedure	Measure	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	168	138	95	121	68	118	142	137	139	122	141	158	1,547
	Mean Average Weeks	38.3	36.9	35.4	32.3	34.4	31.5	33.1	32.2	40.0	33.8	38.7	42.2	36.1
	Median Average Weeks	35.2	31.1	28.1	27.6	29.6	24.9	29.1	26.0	35.4	28.1	32.7	31.6	30.6
	Standard Deviation	18.9	23.2	17.8	16.9	20.9	25.6	17.8	19.6	25.8	16.8	22.3	28.3	21.4
Hearings	Decisions	12	18	10	13	16	12	39	22	11	18	6	9	186
	Mean Average Weeks	64.3	82.7	66.3	78.5	77.9	50.9	62.6	64.1	70.7	60.0	70.7	82.7	67.9
	Median Average Weeks	68.5	78.8	68.8	84.4	71.3	45.2	61.6	67.3	56.0	50.8	59.8	55.3	64.1
	Standard Deviation	22.6	23.2	22.2	15.6	28.0	13.6	18.5	17.9	34.2	31.1	27.6	46.6	26.2
Inquires	Decisions	6	8	7	16	16	31	19	20	37	8	7	28	203
	Mean Average Weeks	102.9	75.4	108.7	81.8	73.8	71.3	104.9	90.6	104.1	101.6	117.6	107.6	92.8
	Median Average Weeks	99.0	86.1	125.3	86.7	62.4	66.0	108.0	92.9	122.3	94.5	147.4	118.3	90.6
	Standard Deviation	19.2	38.1	23.2	26.8	20.3	21.4	30.7	35.0	34.9	32.0	52.2	26.8	33.6
All Enforcement Cases	Decisions	186	164	112	150	100	161	200	179	187	148	154	195	1,936
	Mean Average Weeks	42.1	43.8	42.7	41.6	47.6	40.6	45.7	42.7	54.5	40.7	43.5	53.4	44.5
	Median Average Weeks	36.9	37.8	34.9	30.5	35.2	28.3	38.9	32.3	41.6	33.2	33.9	39.9	35.1
	Standard Deviation	23.1	29.0	26.7	26.2	29.4	28.9	29.7	29.4	38.3	26.3	30.2	37.6	29.6

- The mean and median measures for enforcement written representation decisions show considerable variation month to month but no clear trend. The mean for November 2021 is higher than any of the previous 11 months.
- The time to decision for enforcement hearings and inquiries is generally more than twice the time for written representation decisions.
- Enforcement hearings show variable trends for all three measures; mean, median and standard deviation. November's mean time to decision was the highest for the 12 months. There are smaller numbers of decisions for this casework / procedure group that can influence these measures.
- Enforcement inquiries are now generally taking longer than they were a year ago. As with Planning hearings, the effect of the pandemic is evident in these measures. Also, this grouping can be disproportionately affected by cases that involve multiple linked appeals (for example multiple people served an enforcement notice by a local authority appeal to The Planning Inspectorate, each person appealing is treated as a separate appeal, but all appeals are decided in one decision letter by one Inspector).

Specialist

Note: where there are fewer than 20 decisions, the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful.

Note 2: This table includes revisions to previously published data. Please see Annex E for further information

Procedure	Measure	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	47	54	88	47	41	58	59	41	47	28	47	24	581
	Mean Average Weeks	44.7	42.7	52.8	26.7	32.7	22.8	34.5	28.8	29.3	46.8	46.6	22.0	37.2
	Median Average Weeks	44.0	43.6	53.1	14.9	21.9	15.4	26.9	21.0	17.3	27.7	30.4	17.2	28.2
	Standard Deviation	24.8	33.3	24.5	26.7	28.3	18.9	25.4	21.9	25.0	36.6	35.5	15.4	28.1
Hearings	Decisions	0	3	1	2	2	1	2	0	3	0	0	1	15
	Mean Average Weeks	0.0	89.8	65.0	80.0	82.1	60.0	100.8	-	78.3	-	-	101.9	83.8
	Median Average Weeks	-	102.1	65.0	80.0	82.1	60.0	100.8	-	95.0	-	-	101.9	95.0
	Standard Deviation	-	18.1	0.0	16.3	12.9	0.0	7.1	-	31.5	-	-	0.0	21.6
Inquires	Decisions	2	4	3	1	1	1	0	4	3	2	3	3	27
	Mean Average Weeks	59.9	58.4	77.6	18.0	85.1	100.0	-	90.2	84.6	75.2	84.7	101.2	77.1
	Median Average Weeks	59.9	64.0	81.9	18.0	85.1	100.0	-	94.3	88.4	75.2	105.3	84.9	80.2
	Standard Deviation	13.1	19.5	19.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	9.6	11.5	8.2	33.7	28.9	25.8
All Specialist Cases	Decisions	49	61	92	50	44	60	61	45	53	30	50	28	623
	Mean Average Weeks	45.3	46.1	53.7	28.7	36.1	24.7	36.6	34.3	35.2	48.7	48.9	33.3	40.0
	Median Average Weeks	45.6	52.9	53.6	14.9	21.9	15.9	28.0	22.4	18.0	31.7	32.1	20.9	31.0
	Standard Deviation	24.6	33.7	24.7	28.2	30.3	21.6	27.7	27.4	29.9	36.1	36.6	32.6	29.8

- The number of decisions for Specialist cases is low (see Table 4), and this makes it less easy to identify trends for Specialist cases decided by hearings and inquiries.
- The highest volume of decisions is against Written Representations, and over the last 12 months all three measures see variable trends.
- The time to decision for specialist hearings and inquiries is generally more than twice the time for written representation decisions.
- The median for time to enforcement written representation decision varies between 15 weeks (March 21) and 53 weeks (February 21). The mean average has a low of 22 weeks (November 21) and a high of 53 weeks (February 21).

Annex C – Detailed Information on timeliness (November)

The information below is published today on the number and length of decisions made in November¹³:

Note: when there are fewer than 20 decisions the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful. This applies to the 17 Section 78 planning appeals managed through inquiries; and to the 7 enforcement appeals managed through hearings.

Casework Type	Procedure Type	Mean (weeks)	Median (weeks)	Decisions
s78 planning appeals	Written Representations	29.7	28.7	782
	Hearings	56.0	45.9	33
	Inquiries	37.5	28.6	17
Householder appeals	Written Representations	19.7	19.0	434
Enforcement appeals	Written Representations	45.5	34.6	109
	Hearings	93.0	78.9	7
	Inquiries	108.6	118.3	26

Cells shaded grey had fewer than 20 decisions

The smaller the number of decisions, the less helpful the mean and median are as measures for summarising performance. Particular care should be taken when there are fewer than twenty decisions. These are shaded grey in the table but have been provided for completeness and transparency.

The information published below shows the time taken for different stages of the appeals process:

Note: when there are fewer than 20 decisions the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful. This applies to the 17 inquiries with decisions in November 2021.

	s78 planning appeals			Householder appeals
	Written Representations	Hearings	Inquiries	
Weeks between valid date & start date				
Mean (average)	14.0	22.6	10.2	7.6
Median (average)	14.9	24.1	2.6	6.6
Cases that started in November 21	725	21	28	538
Weeks between start date & event date				
Mean (average)	12.3	27.3	20.4	7.6
Median (average)	9.0	20.0	16.4	6.6
Cases where an event occurred during November 21	791	51	24	526
Weeks between event date & decision date				
Mean (average)	4.7	14.0	12.9	3.3
Median (average)	3.3	6.1	9.1	2.4
Cases that have been decided in November 21	778	32	17	433

¹³ Also published on gov.uk here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appeals-average-timescales-for-arranging-inquiries-and-hearings>

Explanation of date terminology

Valid date	When a case is deemed to have been validly received. Note – this is not always the date the case was validated. If a case is validated after the date it was validly received, it is the date it was validly received that is the valid date.
Start date	When a timetable, on how the appeal will progress, is issued to both the appellant and local authority. This timetable tells the appellant when to submit the information the Inspectors need to determine the appeal. It also tells the local authority when to notify interested parties about the appeal.
Event date	When the site visit, hearing, or inquiry occurred.
Decision date	When the decision was issued by The Planning Inspectorate.

Find out more about the process here - <https://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-decision/after-you-appeal>

Annex D – Casework types included in this release

Planning covers s78 planning appeals, Householder appeals, Commercial appeals, s20 Listed Building appeals, Advertisement appeals, s106 Planning Obligation appeals and Called In Planning Applications.

Enforcement covers s174 Enforcement appeals, s39 Enforcement Listed Building appeals and Lawful Development Certificate appeals.

Specialist casework includes Common Land, Rights of Way orders (including Schedule 14 cases), Purchase orders, Tree Preservation Orders, High Hedges appeals and Hedgerow appeals. (Note that the data on Open Cases in previous publications excluded Tree Preservation Orders and High Hedges and Hedgerow appeals.)

Annex E – Revisions to the data tables

Annex E lists all revisions made to the data since the last statistical release.

Note: Classed as a revision are any values which have changed by more than five (when measuring number of decisions/ cases) or more than 0.5 weeks (for mean, median or standard deviation of weeks).

Table	Revisions
Table 1	Events held: August 2021, September 2021, October 2021.
Table 2	Received: June 2021, July 2021 and September 2021. Closed Cases: March 2021
Table 3	No revisions.

Table 4, by procedure.	No revisions.
Table 4, by appeal type	No revisions.
Table 5	No revisions.
Table 6	No revisions.
Table 7	Specialist cases, valid to decision mean weeks April 2021.
Table 8	No revisions.
Table 9	No revisions.
Table 10	Not applicable.
Table 11	No revisions.
Annex B Planning	No revisions.
Annex B Enforcement	No revisions.
Annex B Specialist	Written Representations, mean average weeks April 2021
Annex C	Not applicable.

Background notes

Data sources

Horizon / Picaso – The main casework management systems used for processing appeals casework (note that Picaso is no longer a live system).

SAP HR – The Human Resources system database used to store all information regarding members of staff.

Compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

These statistics have been published in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, which cover trustworthiness, quality, and value. They have been pre-announced, and publication is overseen by the Head of Profession.

Technical Notes

A Background Quality Report is published alongside this Statistical Release. It provides more detail on the quality of statistics in this publication.

Data quality	<p>Data on cases is taken from a live casework system, and details of cases can change for a number of reasons even after a decision has been made. We are seeking to get a better understanding of the nature and volume of these changes and will provide further information as it is available.</p> <p>We carry out regular checks on the quality of our data and may undertake ad hoc data cleansing exercises. Therefore, all the data for the last 12 rolling months is published in provisional form.</p> <p>We have indicated in this publication any data where a number of cases has changed by more than five cases in a month; or where a measure (mean, median or standard deviation) has changed by more than 0.5 weeks.</p>
Measuring weeks	<p>Data are measured in days and then converted to weeks. Note that not all decimal values are possible where converting days to weeks. 1 day is 1/7 of a week, or 0.14 weeks (to two decimal places). 2 days = 0.29; 3 days = 0.43; 4 days = 0.57; 5 days = 0.71; 6 days = 0.86.</p> <p>When these are used to calculate averages, or displayed to one decimal place, the result will not equate to a full day which can be misleading: it may appear that we are measuring part days (e.g. 19.8 weeks) but we only measure in whole days.</p>

Glossary

Term	Explanation
Appeals	The right to appeal a planning decision made by a local authority is a key feature of the planning system, as is appealing when an authority is taking too long.
Appeals decided	Number of appeals by the date the appeal was decided by The Planning Inspectorate.
Appeals received	Number of appeals by the date the appeal was received by The Planning Inspectorate.
Applications	Planning Inspectorate manage the application process for proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) within England and Wales in line with the 2008 Planning Act.
Closed	The total number of appeals decided, withdrawn, or turned away.
Decision	The outcome of the case e.g. appeal allowed or rejected. The date of the decision is taken as the date a decision letter is sent to the appellant.
Event	A site visit, hearing, or inquiry (may be virtual)
Event Type	The different options of how an Inspector visits a site for a written representations appeal.
Examinations	<p>The process of examining local plans is dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate. Every Local Planning Authority is required to have a local plan. This includes a vision for the future and plan to address housing needs in the area.</p> <p>When a Local Planning Authority has finished preparing and consulting on a local plan it must be submitted to the Secretary of State who appoints an Inspector to carry out an independent examination.</p>

Term	Explanation
FTE	Full Time Equivalent – a count of employees where those working part time are counted in proportion with their contracted hours.
Headcount	Total number of staff employed regardless of how many hours they work (i.e. the number of different individuals).
Hearings	<p>A hearing involves the submission of written evidence by the main parties and a hearing once all the written submissions have been received.</p> <p>This takes the form of a round-the-table discussion (in person or virtually) that will be led by the planning inspector. It allows for all parties to respond to any questions that the inspector might have, and to let everyone make their case known.</p> <p>Source: Planning Portal</p>
Inquiries	<p>An inquiry is usually used for complex cases where legal issues may need to be considered. The main parties will usually have legal representatives to present their case and to cross-examine any witnesses. Prior to the inquiry date, the Planning Inspectorate will expect to have received various documents from all parties that will be taking part in the appeal. These may include statements of case and proofs of evidence from expert witnesses. Third parties may also take part. The inquiry will be led by the inspector and will follow a formal procedure.</p> <p>At some point during or on conclusion of the inquiry the inspector and the main parties will undertake a site visit.</p> <p>Source: Planning Portal</p>
Live appeals	Number of live appeals in that have an appeal valid date but no end date (either decision date or a closed date, e.g. for appeals that have been withdrawn).
Mean	The total time taken divided by the number of cases. Also referred to as the 'average'. A measure of how long each case would take, if the total time taken was spread evenly across all cases.
Median	This is the time taken by the 'middle' case if all cases were sorted from quickest to longest
Open Cases	Number of cases that have been received but on which a decision has not yet been made/ issued. Will differ from Live Appeals as it includes those received but not yet verified.
Procedure Type	The method by which The Planning Inspectorate processes and decides appeals.
Standard deviation	This is a measure of variability or spread. It is calculated by examining how much each value differs from the mean. A higher standard deviation means the individual decision times vary more widely around the mean.
Written Representations	Most planning appeals are decided by the written representations' procedure. With this procedure the Inspector considers written evidence from the appellant, the LPA and anyone else who has an interest in the appeal. The site is also likely to be visited.

Contact Us

The Planning Inspectorate welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

Media enquiries 0303 444 5004
email press.office@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Public enquiries email statistics@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Please note we are currently reviewing our statistics with a view to making them as clear and helpful as possible for users. We would be delighted if you could contact us via the address below with any views on this approach; particularly on what content would be most useful and why.

email statistics@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Planning Inspectorate. For more information, see: <https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>