



# The Planning Inspectorate

## Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

### Official Statistics

#### 21 July 2022

## 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 provides:

- Appeals decisions and events held from July 2021 to June 2022
- The time taken to reach decisions
- Number of open cases
- Number of Inspectors

### Corrections to previously published figures have been made in this release.

In the statistical bulletin issued in June 2022 the number of received cases was under reported. This has now been corrected.

Open case numbers have previously been over-reported for each of the eleven months of past data reported here. This has now been corrected.

More detail is provided in Annex D.

## The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Inspectorate makes decisions 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.

## Summary

### Time to decide cases

The median time to decide a case in June 2022 was 27 weeks. The median time to decide was around 21 weeks during July 2021, and has increased to 24 weeks and over for the last 11 months.

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

Procedure type	Last 12 months	June 2022
Written Representations	24 weeks	26 weeks
Hearings	55 weeks	59 weeks
Inquiries	54 weeks	39 weeks
All Cases	25 weeks	27 weeks

The median time for planning cases was at or above 20 weeks for each of the last 12 months; performance has ranged between 20 and 27 weeks over the past 12 months. Across the whole year, the median time to decision is 24 weeks.

Enforcement decisions made in the last 12 months had a median decision time of 39 weeks.

For each of the last 12 months Specialist cases have been decided more quickly than Enforcement cases.

The median time for planning appeals decided by inquiry under the Rosewell Process over the 12 months to May 2022 is 30 weeks. This is quicker than any other casework decided by inquiry.

### Decisions

The Planning Inspectorate has made 17,146 appeal decisions<sup>1</sup> in the last 12 months, an average of 1,429 per month. The number of decisions in June 2022 was 1,198, the lowest number of decisions over the past 12 months.

There were 1,112 written representations decisions in June 2022; and 16,042 in the last 12 months. Pre-pandemic levels were approximately between 1,600 and 2,000 decisions per month.

There were 637 decisions made on hearings during the last 12 months, and during June 2022, 52 decisions were issued. Pre-pandemic levels for hearing decisions were between 50 and 100 decisions per month.

There were 467 decisions made on inquiries during the last 12 months, with 34 in June 2022. Decisions for inquiries since July 2021 have ranged between 18 and 60. Pre-pandemic levels for inquiry decisions were between 15 and 90 decisions per month.

### Planning Inspectors

There were 371 Planning Inspectors employed by the Inspectorate in June 2022 with a full-time equivalent of 332.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 D the scope of this release and Background Notes has further information.

## Decisions, Events & Open Cases

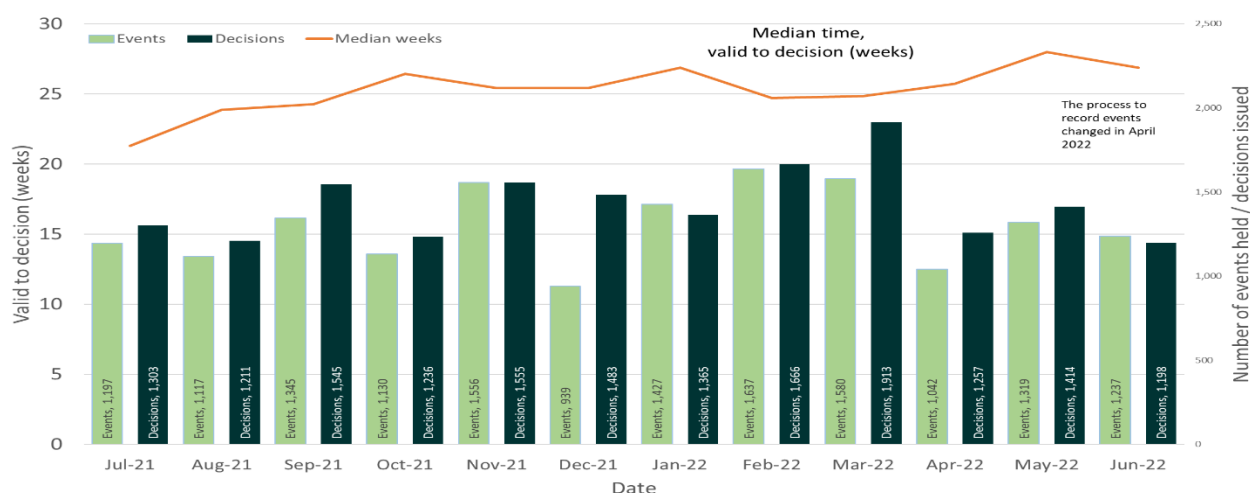
Planning Inspectorate has a new process and software in place for scheduling casework. Data on events is being obtained from a different source from April 22 onwards and as a result statistics from that date onwards can not be meaningfully compared with statistics before that date. Further, it is possible that current events data is incomplete as staff transition to this new admin system. We will review this each month going forward and make any revisions required in future editions of this publication.

The number of decisions issued in June 2022 was 1,198; the lowest number of decisions in the past 12 months.

The number of events recorded for June 2022 was 1,237, the average number of events per month of the past 12 months was 1,294.

The median<sup>2</sup> time to decide a case during June 2022 was 27 weeks, 1 week lower than May 2022. The median time to decide was around 21 weeks at the start of the reporting period, and has been 24 – 27 weeks over the past 11 months.

Figure 1: Number of events held<sup>3</sup>, decisions issued and median time between valid date & decision date; July 2021 to June 2022.



Source: Horizon, Picaso, Inspector Scheduling System

Note: The process and admin system used for events data has changed from April 2022

Table 1: Number of events held, decisions issued and median time between valid date & decision date; July 2021 to June 2022.

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

Month	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Events Held	1,197	1,117	1,345	1,130	1,556	939	1,427	1,637	1,580	1,042	1,319	1,237	15,526
Decisions	1,303	1,211	1,545	1,236	1,555	1,483	1,365	1,666	1,913	1,257	1,414	1,198	17,146
Median	21.3	23.9	24.3	26.4	25.4	25.4	26.9	24.7	24.9	25.7	28.0	26.9	25.3

Source: Horizon, Picaso, Inspector Scheduling System.

Over recent months PINS has transitioned to a new system for scheduling casework and changed the way that specialist casework records are kept, bringing them in line with other

<sup>2</sup> See the section on Decision timeliness for more, including definitions of the average measures used in threase.

<sup>3</sup> A site visit, hearing, or inquiry. From January 2022 onwards hearings and inquiries have been held in person.

casetype records. This has resulted in approximately 200 extra cases being included in our open case counts from February 2022.

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; July 2021 to June 2022



Source: Horizon and Picaso

Note 1: 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. The inspectorate are Investigating how to introduce new processes to improve the quality of this data which once complete may result in revisions to the number of open cases.

Note 2: Additional specialist casetypes are included in open case counts from February 2022

Note 3: This chart shows data that has been corrected since the previous release. See Annex D for more detail.

Table 2: Number of cases received, closed and open; July 2021 to June 2022

Note 1: This table includes revisions to previously published data. Please see Annex D for further information

Note 2: Additional specialist casetypes are included in open case counts from February 2022

Month	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Received	1,774	1,785	1,824	1,763	1,943	1,755	1,706	1,714	1,824	1,635	1,962	1,715	21,400
Closed	1,491	1,356	1,731	1,422	1,780	1,684	1,545	1,881	2,161	1,428	1,646	1,404	19,529
Open All Cases	11894	12428	12475	12775	12913	13047	13242	13294	12976	13185	13503	13892	

Source: Horizon and Picaso

Note: This table includes data that has been corrected since the previous release. See Annex D for more detail.

## Number of Decisions

The Planning Inspectorate has made 17,146 appeal decisions<sup>4</sup> in the last 12 months. There were 1,198 cases decided in June 2022 which is less than the 12 month average of 1,429

<sup>4</sup> 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 D the scope of this release and Background Notes has further information.

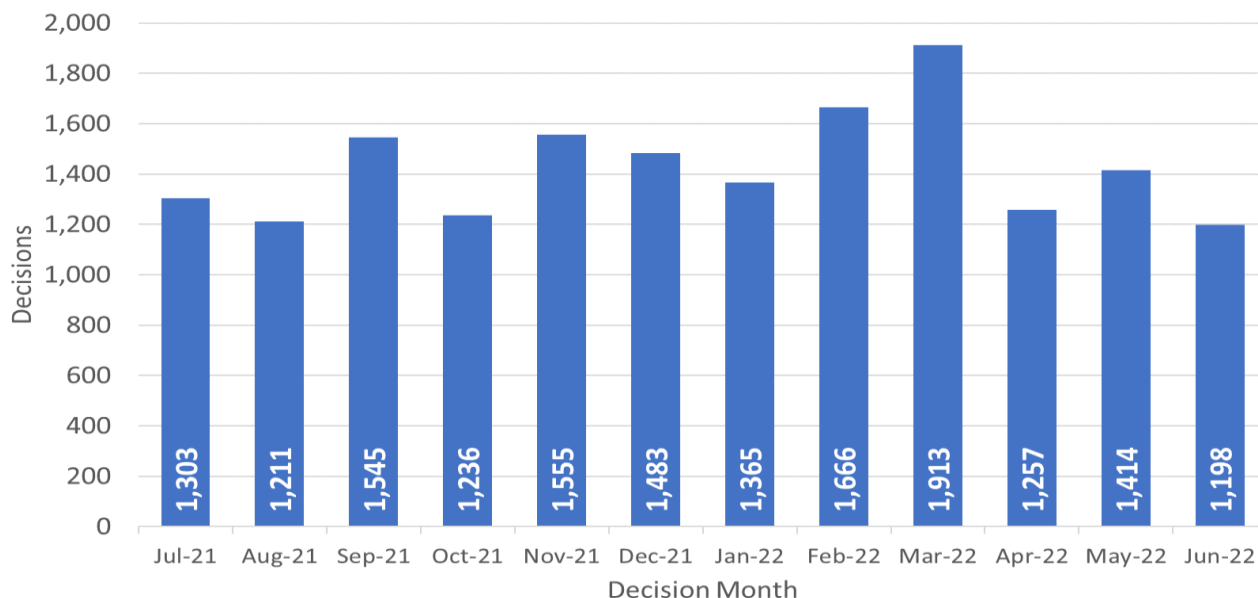
per month. Table 3 below shows the monthly breakdown with fewer decisions for the months of July, August, October, April and June.

Table 3: Appeal Decisions; July 2021 to June 2022

Month	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Decisions	1,303	1,211	1,545	1,236	1,555	1,483	1,365	1,666	1,913	1,257	1,414	1,198	17,146

Source: Horizon and Picaso

Figure 3 – Appeal Decisions; July 2021 to June 2022



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 Plans<sup>5</sup>, 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 over the past 12 months (16,042) were made on written representations. This is ninety four percent of all appeal decisions made. Table 4 shows that written representation decisions has varied from around 1,100 to over 1,800 per month over the past 12 months. (Pre-pandemic levels being between approximately 1,600 and 2,000 decisions per month). There were 1,112 decisions in June 2022.

There were 637 decisions made on hearings during the last 12 months, the monthly average being 53. During June 2022 52 decisions were issued. Pre-pandemic levels for hearing decisions were between 50 and 100 decisions per month. In June 2022 34 decisions were made for inquiries. Decisions for inquiries since June 2021 have ranged between 18 and 60. Pre-pandemic levels for inquiry decisions were between 15 and 90 decisions per month.

<sup>5</sup> 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)

Table 4: Appeal Decisions by Procedure and Casework Category; July 2021 to June 2022

Month	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Written Representations	1,201	1,104	1,475	1,186	1,457	1,398	1,250	1,594	1,816	1,158	1,291	1,112	16,042
Hearings	65	51	40	32	47	53	55	37	51	67	87	52	637
Inquiries	37	56	30	18	51	32	60	35	46	32	36	34	467
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>17,146</b>
Month	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Planning	1,077	969	1,365	1,033	1,330	1,262	1,108	1,412	1,611	987	1,151	1,014	14,319
Enforcement	179	187	148	153	193	160	208	220	254	174	214	138	2,228
Specialist	47	55	32	50	32	61	49	34	48	96	49	46	599
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>17,146</b>

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.

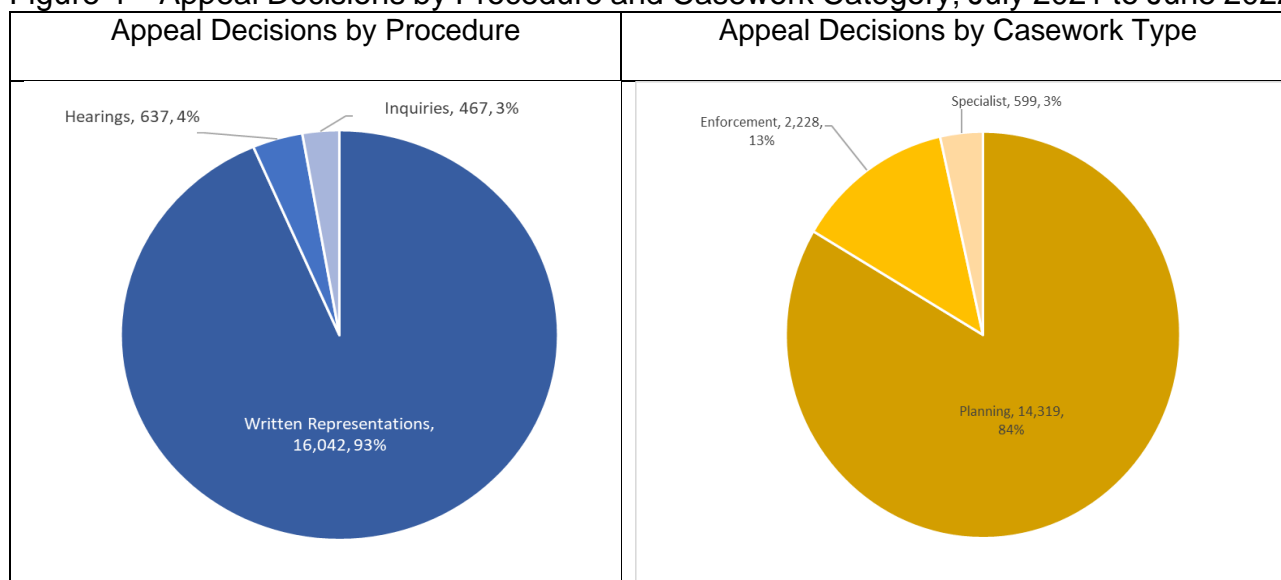
**What are Enforcement cases?** Enforcement covers enforcement appeals (i.e., appeals against the issue of an enforcement notice by a local planning authority), enforcement listed building notice appeals and lawful development certificate appeals.

**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 decided in the past 12 months were planning (14,319). This is about eighty-four per cent of all appeal decisions made. There were 2,228 enforcement decisions and 599 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 average number of enforcement decisions over the past 12 months was 186. March 22 had the most enforcement decisions of the last 12 months. Specialist casework figures continue to vary each month, from a low of 32 in September and November 2021 to a high of 96 in April 2022. The high number of cases decided in April was partly attributable to a large group of linked cases that were responded to at the same time.

Figure 4 – Appeal Decisions by Procedure and Casework Category; July 2021 to June 2022



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 median time to make a decision, across all cases in the last 12 months, was 25 weeks. Figure 5 shows the median has been above 21 weeks for 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 long decisions submitted, or deemed 'valid' in that month, will take.

Table 5 also shows the mean time for the last 12 months is 31 weeks. Each month the median is less than the mean, due to the relatively small number of very long cases. Also included in the table is the *standard deviation* of decision timeliness. The standard deviation – a measure of variation – varies throughout the year with no clear trend.

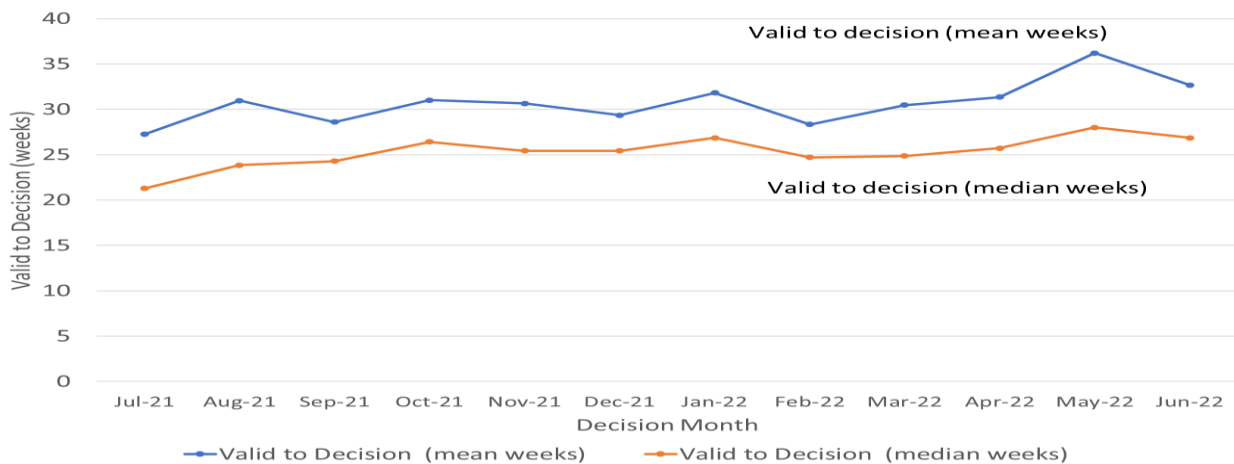
What are mean, median, and standard deviation?	
Measure	Definition
Mean	The total time taken divided by the number of cases. Also referred to as the 'average'. A measure of how long each case would take, if the total time taken was spread evenly across all cases.
Median	This is the time taken by the '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. A lower standard deviation would demonstrate greater consistency in the Planning Inspectorate's decision timeliness.

Table 5: Median, mean and Standard Deviation of Time to Decision; July 2021 to June 2022

Month	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Valid to Decision (median weeks)	21.3	23.9	24.3	26.4	25.4	25.4	26.9	24.7	24.9	25.7	28.0	26.9	25.3
Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	27.3	31.0	28.6	31.0	30.6	29.4	31.8	28.4	30.5	31.3	36.2	32.7	30.6
Standard Deviation (weeks)	18.5	23.3	16.7	19.0	21.3	17.7	22.0	17.6	23.9	24.8	31.2	25.1	22.1

Source: Horizon and Picaso

Figure 5: Median and mean Time to Decision; July 2021 to June 2021



Source: Horizon and Picaso

### Procedure Type

Table 6 below shows decision timeliness broken down by the procedure type. Hearings and inquires take longer than written representations – both types take more than twice as long on average across the last 12 months. 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 noted in the table caption 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 June 2022



is 24 weeks; the last nine months have longer median time to decision than the previous three months. The median time for inquiries over the 12 months to May 2022 is 54 weeks.

Table 6: Mean and Median Time to Decision, with Standard Deviation, by Procedure; July 2021 to June 2022

Note 1: 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 October 2021.

Key: WR= Written Representations; HRG= Hearings; INQ= Inquiries; All= All Cases

Measure	Procedure	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Valid to Decision (median weeks)	WR	20.4	23.0	23.6	25.9	24.4	24.9	25.4	24.1	24.2	24.4	27.0	26.1	24.3
	HRG	43.6	43.9	50.4	53.6	47.9	53.1	64.1	45.7	52.9	108.3	94.0	59.1	55.7
	INQ	79.0	95.0	35.6	50.4	84.9	40.6	90.9	57.3	42.1	40.4	44.2	39.4	53.6
	All	21.3	23.9	24.3	26.4	25.4	25.4	26.9	24.7	24.9	25.7	28.0	26.9	25.3
Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	WR	24.5	27.2	27.3	29.6	27.9	27.7	28.1	27.0	28.9	27.3	30.4	29.6	27.9
	HRG	50.0	49.8	57.1	57.2	60.8	61.2	75.7	57.5	60.6	89.1	113.6	87.4	71.9
	INQ	77.5	87.7	56.5	77.6	82.3	47.3	69.4	60.7	60.7	57.2	55.8	49.8	66.8
	All	27.3	31.0	28.6	31.0	30.6	29.4	31.8	28.4	30.5	31.3	36.2	32.7	30.6
Standard Deviation (weeks)	WR	13.3	16.0	14.0	16.4	15.5	15.0	15.3	15.1	21.9	17.2	18.3	17.1	16.6
	HRG	19.8	27.5	27.5	22.9	38.6	32.0	43.8	33.1	27.3	38.3	59.8	62.7	45.4
	INQ	43.8	47.1	40.8	50.9	43.8	30.0	30.5	35.4	45.8	45.6	37.2	36.3	42.8
	All	18.5	23.3	16.7	19.0	21.3	17.7	22.0	17.6	23.9	24.8	31.2	25.1	22.1
Decisions	WR	1,201	1,104	1,475	1,186	1,457	1,398	1,250	1,594	1,816	1,158	1,291	1,112	16,042
	HRG	65	51	40	32	47	53	55	37	51	67	87	52	637
	INQ	37	56	30	18	51	32	60	35	46	32	36	34	467
	All	1,303	1,211	1,545	1,236	1,555	1,483	1,365	1,666	1,913	1,257	1,414	1,198	17,146

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 has been quite stable over recent months, whereas hearings and enquiries have experienced considerable month to month changes in the spread of decision times.

### 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 specialist<sup>6</sup> 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 enforcement cases; and less variable than the times for specialist cases. Table 7 and Figure 6 show the median time for planning cases was above 20 weeks for the last 12 months; and ranged between 23 and 27 weeks. Across the 12 month period, the median time to decision is 24 weeks for these cases.

Table 7: Decisions, Mean, Median and Standard Deviation of Time to Decision – Planning, Enforcement, Specialist Cases; July 2021 to June 2022

<sup>6</sup> See the box in the section on Number of Decisions for what these categories of casework include.

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

Casework Category	Measure	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Planning Cases	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	20.4	23.0	23.6	25.3	24.6	24.6	25.2	24.2	23.6	25.0	27.0	26.0	24.3
	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	24.4	26.2	26.9	28.3	27.2	26.8	28.1	26.3	25.8	26.7	30.3	29.1	27.1
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	13.7	14.7	13.5	13.6	14.1	13.7	16.2	13.9	15.1	15.3	21.6	17.8	15.4
Enforcement Cases	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	32.3	41.6	33.2	34.0	39.9	39.1	37.5	31.1	44.4	48.0	57.8	40.9	39.0
	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	42.7	54.5	40.7	43.6	53.5	45.0	49.5	39.9	57.3	59.7	66.9	56.3	51.2
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	29.4	38.3	26.3	30.2	37.6	26.4	32.4	26.7	39.9	40.8	50.1	47.0	37.4
Specialist Cases	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	22.4	17.7	27.7	32.1	19.7	27.1	29.4	25.4	27.2	12.7	27.3	27.9	24.9
	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	33.6	34.4	46.8	48.9	36.4	40.8	41.6	40.5	46.7	27.4	40.4	40.4	38.7
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	27.1	29.6	35.7	36.6	40.7	32.5	37.0	37.8	45.5	30.0	34.8	27.5	34.8

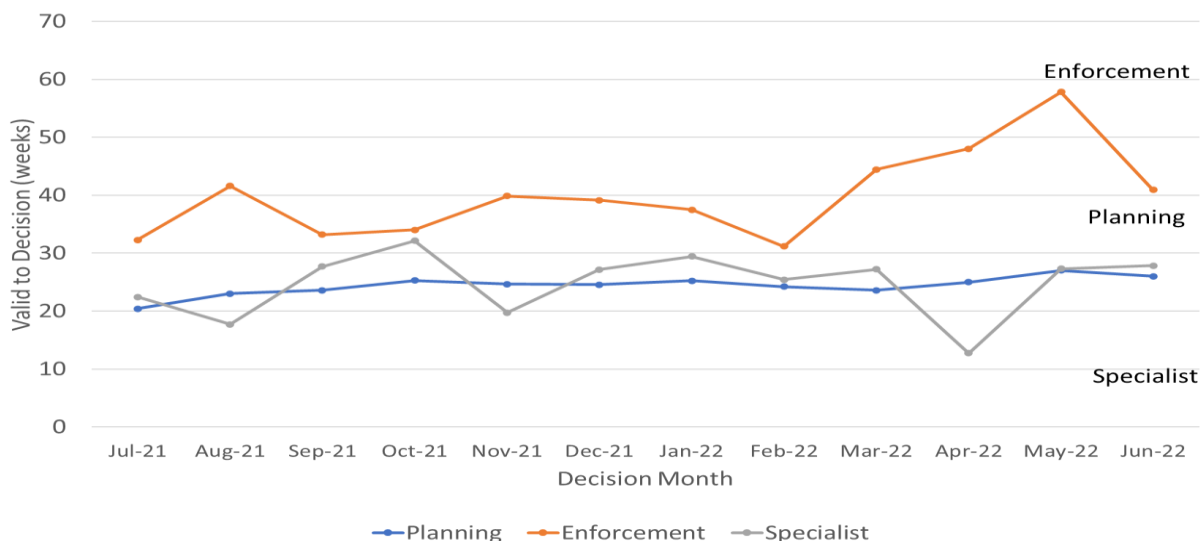
Source: Horizon and Picaso.

Annex A gives information on median and mean 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 39 weeks.

There are considerably fewer specialist cases which means results are more liable to be distorted by extreme values. Looking at the annual measures, the median time to decision for specialist decisions have been shorter than enforcement decisions, and similar to the median for planning decisions. Throughout the period shown, specialist cases have been decided quicker than enforcement.

Figure 6 – Median Time to Decision by Casework Category: July 2021 to June 2022



Source: Horizon and Picaso

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 B<sup>7</sup> 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 under Rosewell process over the 12 months to June 2022 is 31 weeks and the median time to decision for May 2022 was 31 weeks.

Table 8: Decisions, Mean and Median Time to Decision, Planning Inquiry Cases under Rosewell Process; July 2021 to June 2022

Note 1: where there are fewer than 20 decisions, the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful.

Measure	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Decisions	11	13	19	8	19	14	21	23	22	15	25	22	212
Median (weeks)	29.1	25.1	26.9	43.2	28.6	27.4	31.9	42.1	30.0	33.6	30.6	30.9	30.7
Mean (weeks)	32.0	39.6	30.5	40.0	36.8	29.2	37.8	47.0	35.5	36.0	40.0	31.6	36.6
St. Dev. (weeks)	12.0	44.5	10.7	13.5	18.7	8.5	19.6	19.7	14.2	13.3	20.5	11.4	19.6

Source: Horizon

Most inquiry decisions now being issued are under the revised 'Rosewell'<sup>8</sup> 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; July 2021 to June 2022

Month	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Decisions	2	3	1	0	0	3	2	0	3	3	1	1	19

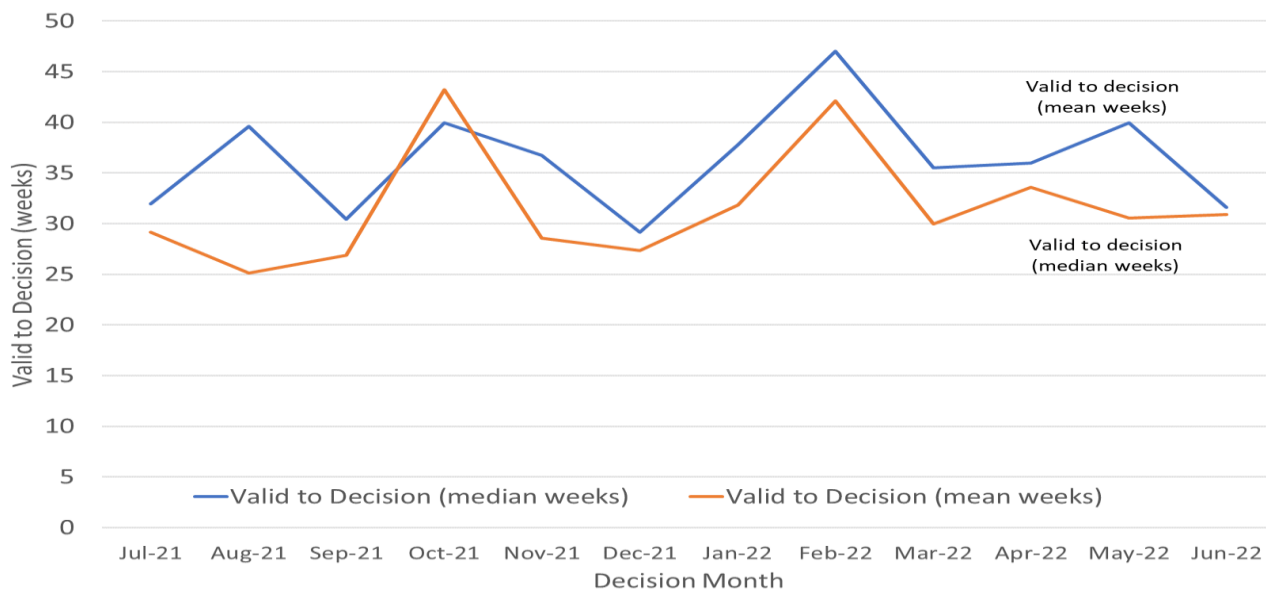
Source: Horizon

<sup>7</sup> Data also published on gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appeals-average-timescales-for-arranging-inquiries-and-hearings>

<sup>8</sup> 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 and Median Time to Decision, Rosewell Inquiry Process; July 2021 to June 2022



Source: Horizon

## Open Cases

At the end of June 2022, the Planning Inspectorate had almost thirteen thousand nine hundred open cases<sup>9</sup> (13,892). This is higher than the previous month; the number of open cases has been rising through the year. More information on the number of open cases, and how it has changed over the past 12 months, is in Table 2 and Figure 2 above.

The open cases comprised of 12,054 cases being handled through written representations; 984 through hearings; and 737 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 yet to start, than at any other stage in the process. Event refers to either a site visit, hearing, or inquiry.

<sup>9</sup> 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 many types of specialist casework. The types of specialist casework included in open case counts has increased over time. See Background Quality report for more information.

Table 10: Open cases by procedure and stage, as of end of June 2022

Stage	Written Representations	Hearings	Inquiries	Total
Cases received but yet to be deemed valid	1,361	90	6	1,458
Cases deemed valid but yet to 'start'	2,671	112	86	2,950
Case started but event (site visit/hearing/inquiry) has not yet happened	7,209	666	524	8,415
Event has happened/started but decision not yet issued	813	116	121	1,069
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,054</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>13,892</b>

Source: Horizon

Note there are 117 cases that have no procedure type recorded (see Background Quality Report for more detail) These are included in the total 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. The inspectorate are Investigating how to introduce new processes to improve the quality of this data which once complete may result in revisions to the number of open cases.

## Inspectors

Table 11 below shows the number of inspectors in the Planning Inspectorate in each month from July 2021 to June 2022<sup>10</sup>. 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 371 Planning Inspectors employed by the Inspectorate in June 2022 – with a full-time equivalent of 332.

Table 11: Planning Inspectors – Headcount and FTE; July 2021 to June 2022 (at end of month)

Month	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
Headcount	347	346	345	351	360	361	360	357	357	355	365	371
FTE	308.4	307.8	306.6	314.0	323.2	322.8	320.9	318.9	319.1	316.6	325.9	331.5

Source: SAP HR

As above, Planning Inspectors work on a broader range of work than the appeals featured in this Release. 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).

<sup>10</sup> 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 give the most recent figures. Information about which tables this applies to, can be found in Annex D and the separate Background Quality Report.

## Quarterly Statistics

The Inspectorate has also published a series of tables of quarterly data. The quarterly statistics differ from the monthly statistical release. Some of the data published is on casework types that The Planning Inspectorate deals with, that are larger in scale but smaller in volume. The best examples of this are Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and Local Plans, where volumes never go into the hundreds, and the time between submission to report issue can be over a year. Other data breaks appeals down into more detail than in the monthly totals. This data has been published on a quarterly basis for many years as management information.

### **Appeals against refusal of Planning Permission (Section 78 appeals)**

The largest volume of casework dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate are appeals against refusal of Planning Permission, which are made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The analysis below deals with just this casework type although figures for other casework types can be found in the published quarterly statistics.

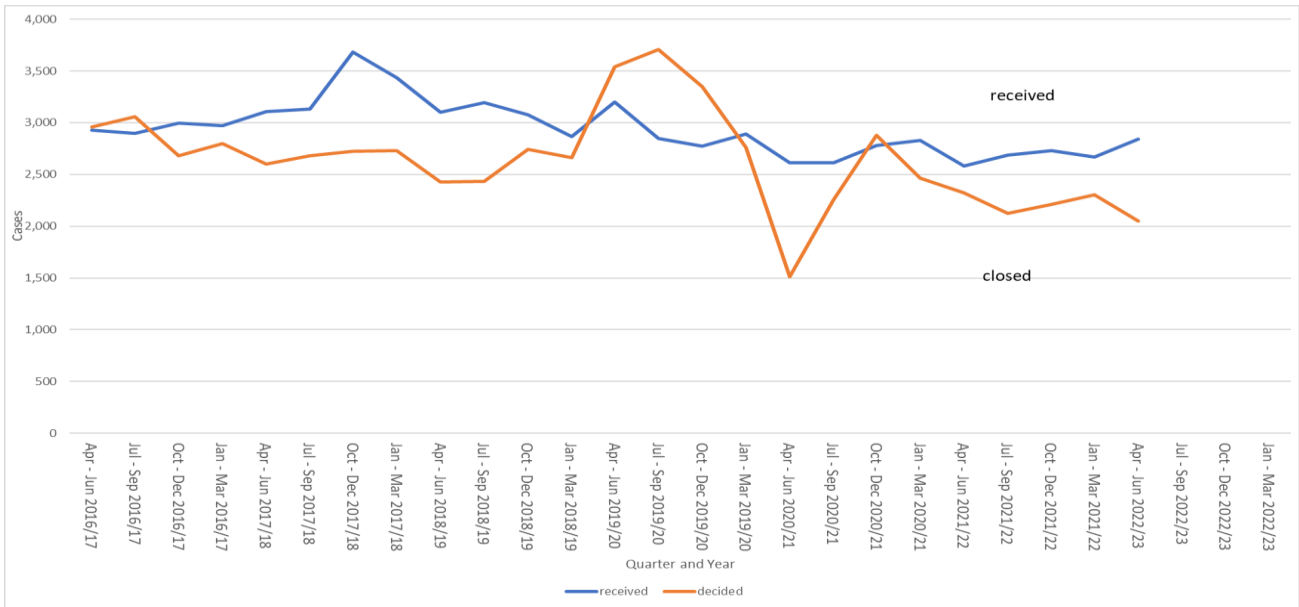
#### ***Number of appeals received compared to decisions issued.***

In the last twelve months, July 2021 to June 2022, there have been 10,934 Section 78 planning appeals (s78) received, compared to 10,804 for the period July 2020 to June 2021.

In the last five complete financial years (April 2017 to March 2022) the highest level of quarterly receipts (3,684) occurred in October to December 2017 and the highest number of decisions (3,705) was in July to September 2019. Over the past year the average number of receipts per quarter was 2,734 and the average number of decisions per quarter was 2,172.

The number of appeals received in the first quarter of 2022/23 (2,844) was 10.2% higher than the same period in 2021/22. Appeal receipts since the pandemic started average around 2,705 per quarter (April 20 to June 22).

Figure 8: Number of s78 Planning appeals receipts and decision, 2017/18 to 2022/23, by quarter



Source: Horizon & Picaso. Full published data in Tables 2.1 and Table 2.4.

See Annex E, Table A, for full data table.

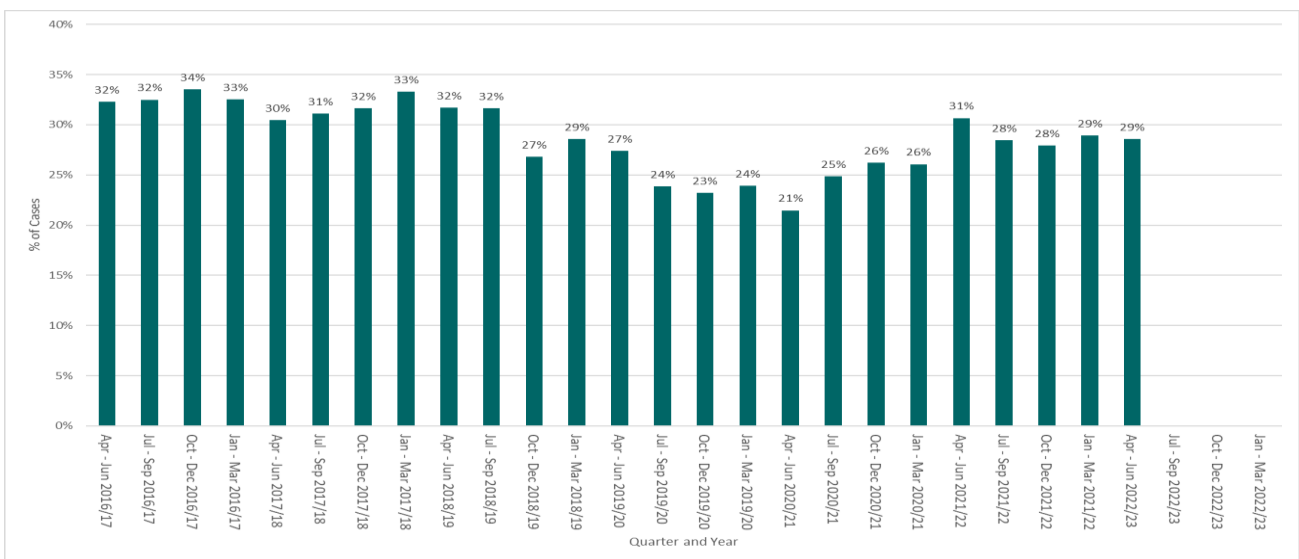
The number of decisions being issued in the first quarter of 2022/23, April to June, was 11% less than the previous quarter and 12% less than the corresponding quarter last year.

### Appeals Allowed

The percentage of Section 78 planning appeals that were allowed in the latest quarter was 29%, the same as the previous quarter. Over the past 4 quarters the percentage of appeals allowed has been 28% or 29% each quarter.

The overall percentage allowed is heavily influenced by the number of written representations appeals allowed, as this procedure type contributes by far the greatest number of decisions each year. There has been slightly more variation in the percentage allowed for hearings and inquiries. See Figure 11 below for further details.

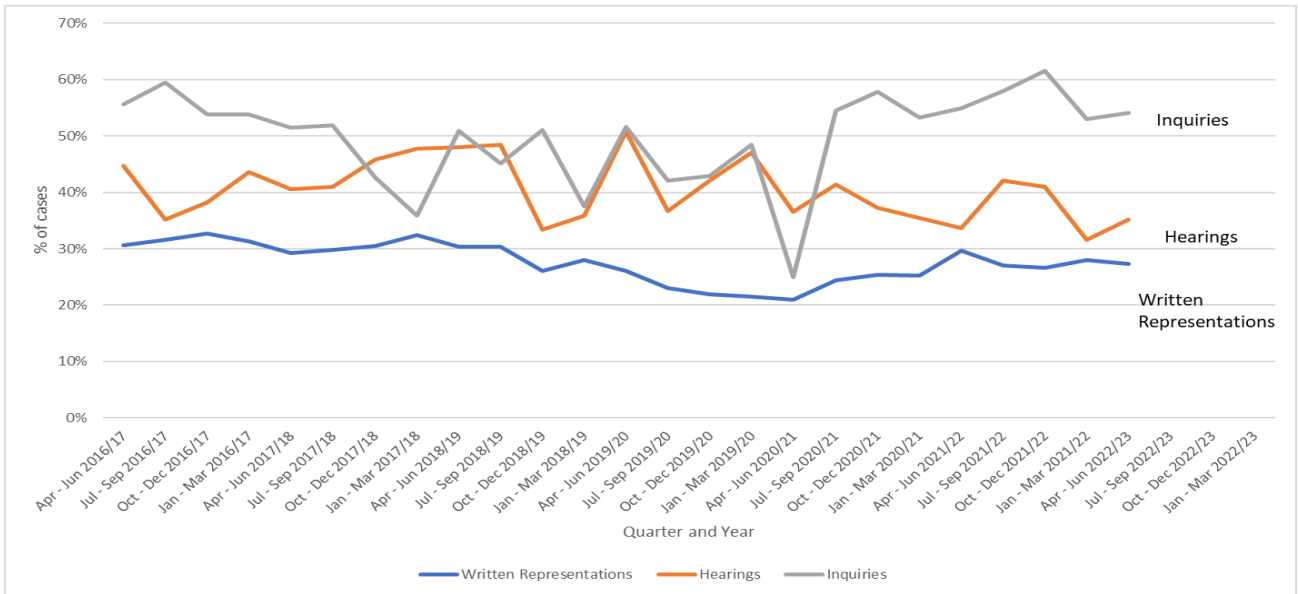
Figure 9: S78 planning appeals, percentage allowed, 2017/18 to 2022/23, by quarter



Source: Horizon & Picaso. Full published data in Table 2.4 s78 planning appeals decided.

See Annex E, Table B, for full data table

Figure 10: S78 planning appeals, percentage allowed by procedure type, 2017/18 to 2022/23, by quarter

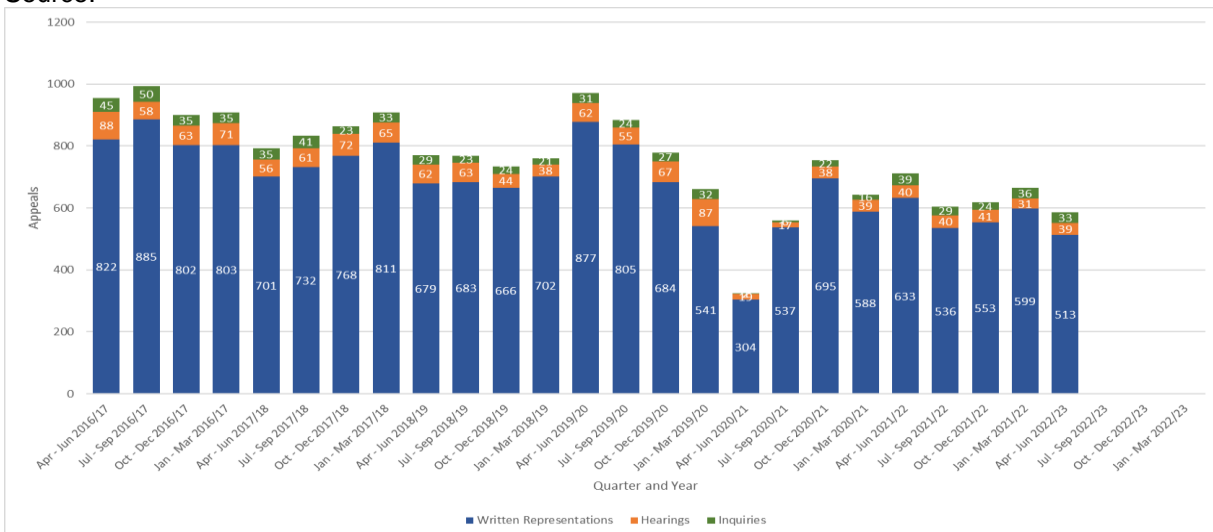


Source: Horizon & Picaso. Full published data in Table 2.4 s78 planning appeals decided.

See Annex E, Table B, for full data table

Figure 11: S78 planning appeals, number of appeals allowed, 2017/18 to 2022/23, by quarter

Source:



Horizon & Picaso. Full published data in Table 2.4 s78 planning appeals decided.

See Annex E, Table C, for full data table



## Annex A – 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: The number of inquiry decisions issued during, July, August, October, November and December 2021 and April 2022 were fewer than 20.

Procedure	Measure	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	1,021	916	1,323	1,000	1,274	1,204	1,052	1,359	1,550	936	1,082	954	13,671
	Median Average Weeks	19.7	22.4	23.1	25.0	24.1	24.2	24.6	23.9	23.1	24.3	26.4	25.3	23.9
	Mean Average Weeks	23.3	25.2	26.2	27.5	26.3	25.8	26.4	25.4	25.0	25.2	27.6	27.6	25.9
	Standard Deviation	11.3	12.0	12.3	12.7	12.0	11.5	12.4	12.5	14.3	12.3	13.7	14.5	12.8
Hearings	Decisions	43	37	22	25	37	41	33	30	36	33	43	37	417
	Median Average Weeks	42.0	37.4	50.4	54.3	45.9	49.4	55.9	43.6	48.8	52.7	61.4	51.1	48.9
	Mean Average Weeks	42.7	41.3	54.7	54.7	54.3	56.7	70.7	51.5	52.8	63.0	90.0	66.4	58.6
	Standard Deviation	16.5	18.6	24.0	20.6	34.1	29.7	39.0	27.0	20.0	34.7	58.4	41.6	36.0
Inquires	Decisions	13	16	20	8	19	17	23	23	25	18	26	23	231
	Median Average Weeks	30.9	30.0	27.9	43.2	28.6	23.9	31.9	42.1	28.0	34.8	32.1	31.0	31.1
	Mean Average Weeks	53.5	50.3	36.6	40.0	36.8	29.1	41.0	47.0	35.6	37.7	43.6	33.2	40.0
	Standard Deviation	51.6	53.9	28.8	13.5	18.7	10.5	25.4	19.7	15.1	13.4	27.0	13.4	27.4
All Planning Cases	Decisions	1,077	969	1,365	1,033	1,330	1,262	1,108	1,412	1,611	987	1,151	1,014	14,319
	Median Average Weeks	24.4	26.2	26.9	28.3	27.2	26.8	28.1	26.3	25.8	26.7	30.3	29.1	27.1
	Mean Average Weeks	20.4	23.0	23.6	25.3	24.6	24.6	25.2	24.2	23.6	25.0	27.0	26.0	24.3
	Standard Deviation	13.7	14.7	13.5	13.6	14.1	13.7	16.2	13.9	15.1	15.3	21.6	17.8	15.4

- The median time to decision for planning written representations was 1.1 weeks lower in June 2022 compared to May 2022.
- The standard deviation of time to decision for planning written representations has varied between 11.3 weeks and 14.3 weeks over the past 12 months.
- The median for planning hearings during June 2022 reduced by 10.3 weeks compared to May 2022
- The median for planning inquiries during June 2022 reduced by 1.2 weeks compared to May 2022

## Enforcement

Note: where there are fewer than 20 decisions, the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful. This applies to hearing decisions in all months other than July 2021 and April and May 2022; and to inquiry decisions in all months other than July, August and November 2021, and January 2022.

Procedure	Measure	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	137	139	122	139	156	137	155	203	226	131	166	119	1,830
	Median Average Weeks	26.0	35.4	28.1	32.7	31.6	37.4	31.7	28.6	42.4	36.7	45.8	37.3	33.0
	Mean Average Weeks	32.2	40.0	33.8	38.7	42.1	41.5	37.2	36.6	54.8	44.8	47.9	43.1	41.7
	Standard Deviation	19.6	25.8	16.8	22.4	28.2	23.9	22.1	21.9	38.9	29.1	28.8	24.2	27.3
Hearings	Decisions	22	11	18	7	9	10	19	6	11	31	41	11	196
	Median Average Weeks	67.3	56.0	50.8	53.0	55.3	60.5	66.7	55.7	63.0	118.9	170.3	223.7	87.4
	Mean Average Weeks	64.1	70.7	60.0	66.1	82.7	71.6	81.8	72.3	64.9	111.8	140.5	165.3	96.6
	Standard Deviation	17.9	34.2	31.1	27.9	46.6	33.7	47.4	36.3	22.5	19.0	50.7	70.8	51.9
Inquires	Decisions	20	37	8	7	28	13	34	11	17	12	7	8	202
	Median Average Weeks	90.6	104.1	101.6	117.6	107.6	60.9	87.3	84.0	86.0	88.5	86.7	103.3	93.8
	Mean Average Weeks	92.9	122.3	94.5	147.4	118.3	48.0	90.9	71.9	58.3	49.3	78.0	96.1	90.9
	Standard Deviation	35.0	34.9	32.0	52.2	26.8	27.1	15.4	44.0	48.0	60.7	37.2	35.9	38.0
All Enforcement Cases	Decisions	179	187	148	153	193	160	208	220	254	174	214	138	2,228
	Median Average Weeks	32.3	41.6	33.2	34.0	39.9	39.1	37.5	31.1	44.4	48.0	57.8	40.9	39.0
	Mean Average Weeks	42.7	54.5	40.7	43.6	53.5	45.0	49.5	39.9	57.3	59.7	66.9	56.3	51.2
	Standard Deviation	29.4	38.3	26.3	30.2	37.6	26.4	32.4	26.7	39.9	40.8	50.1	47.0	37.4

- The mean and median measures for enforcement written representation decisions show considerable variation month to month but no clear trend. The median for June 2022 reduced by 8.5 weeks compared to May 2022.
- The time to decision for enforcement hearings and inquiries is generally more than twice the time for written representation decisions. The median for hearings during June was 224 weeks due to a linked redetermined case.
- Enforcement hearings show variable trends for all three measures; mean, median and standard deviation. There are smaller numbers of decisions for this casework / procedure group that can influence these measures.
- Enforcement inquiries are generally taking longer than they were a year ago. 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. This applies to all months' hearings decisions; and all months' inquiries decisions.

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

Procedure	Measure	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	43	49	30	47	27	57	43	32	40	91	43	39	541
	Median Average Weeks	21.0	17.3	24.3	30.4	17.3	24.9	29.0	23.9	24.1	11.3	23.3	25.1	22.3
	Mean Average Weeks	28.3	28.6	44.9	46.6	21.3	36.1	35.0	34.4	32.4	23.2	33.5	37.8	32.7
	Standard Deviation	21.7	24.7	36.1	35.5	14.7	27.5	30.1	30.1	29.8	22.1	27.8	27.3	28.3
Hearings	Decisions	0	3	0	0	1	2	3	1	4	3	3	4	24
	Median Average Weeks	-	95.0	-	-	101.9	101.9	130.1	149.1	127.9	141.0	90.9	75.1	103.8
	Mean Average Weeks	0.0	78.3	-	-	101.9	101.9	93.2	149.1	118.7	141.5	85.7	68.0	99.9
	Standard Deviation	-	31.5	-	-	0.0	26.2	58.0	0.0	22.9	15.4	29.0	14.7	38.7
Inquires	Decisions	4	3	2	3	4	2	3	1	4	2	3	3	34
	Median Average Weeks	94.3	88.4	75.2	105.3	113.4	113.9	95.1	119.7	109.4	44.8	66.9	39.7	86.6
	Mean Average Weeks	90.2	84.6	75.2	84.7	121.7	113.9	84.0	119.7	110.0	44.8	89.4	34.9	88.5
	Standard Deviation	9.6	11.5	8.2	33.7	43.4	15.6	29.6	0.0	61.3	1.6	49.0	13.2	41.7
All Specialist Cases	Decisions	47	55	32	50	32	61	49	34	48	96	49	46	599
	Median Average Weeks	22.4	17.7	27.7	32.1	19.7	27.1	29.4	25.4	27.2	12.7	27.3	27.9	24.9
	Mean Average Weeks	33.6	34.4	46.8	48.9	36.4	40.8	41.6	40.5	46.7	27.4	40.4	40.4	38.7
	Standard Deviation	27.1	29.6	35.7	36.6	40.7	32.5	37.0	37.8	45.5	30.0	34.8	27.5	34.8

- 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 the volume and time 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 specialist written representation decision varies between 11 weeks (April 22) and 30 weeks (October 21).

## Annex B – Detailed Information on timeliness (June 2022)

The information below is published today on the number and length of decisions made in June 2022<sup>11</sup>:

Note: when there are fewer than 20 decisions the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful. This applies to the 11 appeals decided by Hearings and 8 decided by Inquiry.

Casework Type	Procedure Type	Median (weeks)	Mean (weeks)	Decisions
s78 planning appeals	Written Representations	28.0	30.6	627
	Hearings	51.1	67.2	35
	Inquiries	31.1	33.3	20
Householder appeals	Written Representations	16.5	20.3	258
Enforcement appeals	Written Representations	37.3	43.1	119
	Hearings	223.7	165.3	11
	Inquiries	96.1	103.3	8

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.

	s78 planning appeals			Householder appeals
	Written Representations	Hearings	Inquiries	
<b>Weeks between valid date &amp; start date</b>				
Median (average)	11.7	14.3	2.3	2.3
Mean (average)	11.5	19.2	3.5	3.7
Cases that started in June 2022	715	70	29	385
<b>Weeks between start date &amp; event date</b>				
Median (average)	11.7	14.6	16.0	9.9
Mean (average)	14.1	28.2	20.4	11.5
Cases where an event occurred during June 2022	597	37	19	337
<b>Weeks between event date &amp; decision date</b>				
Median (average)	4.0	5.1	11.1	3.4
Mean (average)	5.1	7.4	12.4	3.9
Cases that have been decided in June 2022	576	31	18	254

<sup>11</sup> 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 C – 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, Hedgerow appeals, Wayleave, Compulsory Purchase Orders, Secretary of State, Transport, Environmental Permitting Appeals and Coastal Access. Additional casework types have been added to this category over time.

## Annex D – Corrections and Revisions to the data tables

This Annex lists all revisions and corrections 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 May 2022
Table 2	Received Cases May 2022; Closed Cases December 2021 and February 2022; Open Cases December 2021.

Two errors have been identified and corrected since the last release of these Official Statistics, one affecting May's received cases count and one affecting open cases counts throughout the series.

In the process of compiling these statistics a data processing error was identified in the previous month's production process which resulted in 147 received cases not being

counted. This has now been corrected and an additional quality assurance check has been put in place to reduce the likelihood of such an error occurring in the future.

The Planning Inspectorate are making efforts to improve our data quality. In reviewing the transition of data from legacy systems we recently identified 77 duplicate cases that were being counted in our open case figures. These have now been removed, reducing the number of open cases reported for every month of the series in this bulletin.

## Annex E – Quarterly tables

Table A: s78 planning appeals received and decided, by quarter since 2016/17

Year	Quarter	Received	Decided
2016/17	Apr - Jun	2,929	2,958
	Jul - Sep	2,895	3,056
	Oct - Dec	2,997	2,683
	Jan - Mar	2,972	2,796
2017/18	Apr - Jun	3,108	2,600
	Jul - Sep	3,131	2,680
	Oct - Dec	3,684	2,727
	Jan - Mar	3,436	2,731
2018/19	Apr - Jun	3,104	2,428
	Jul - Sep	3,192	2,431
	Oct - Dec	3,074	2,740
	Jan - Mar	2,867	2,665
2019/20	Apr - Jun	3,203	3,540
	Jul - Sep	2,849	3,705
	Oct - Dec	2,771	3,350
	Jan - Mar	2,894	2,759
2020/21	Apr - Jun	2,610	1,514
	Jul - Sep	2,613	2,252
	Oct - Dec	2,779	2,879
	Jan - Mar	2,831	2,467
2021/22	Apr - Jun	2,581	2,322
	Jul - Sep	2,690	2,125
	Oct - Dec	2,730	2,212
	Jan - Mar	2,670	2,304
2022/23	Apr - Jun	2,844	2,048

Table B: s78 planning appeals, percentage allowed by procedure type from 2016/17

Year	Quarter	Written Representations	Hearings	Inquiries	All
2016/17	Apr - Jun	31%	45%	56%	32%
	Jul - Sep	32%	35%	60%	32%
	Oct - Dec	33%	38%	54%	34%
	Jan - Mar	31%	44%	54%	33%
2017/18	Apr - Jun	29%	41%	51%	30%
	Jul - Sep	30%	41%	52%	31%
	Oct - Dec	31%	46%	43%	32%
	Jan - Mar	32%	48%	36%	33%
2018/19	Apr - Jun	30%	48%	51%	32%
	Jul - Sep	30%	48%	45%	32%
	Oct - Dec	26%	33%	51%	27%
	Jan - Mar	28%	36%	38%	29%
2019/20	Apr - Jun	26%	51%	52%	27%
	Jul - Sep	23%	37%	42%	24%
	Oct - Dec	22%	42%	43%	23%
	Jan - Mar	22%	47%	48%	24%
2020/21	Apr - Jun	21%	37%	25%	21%
	Jul - Sep	24%	41%	55%	25%
	Oct - Dec	25%	37%	58%	26%
	Jan - Mar	25%	35%	53%	26%
2021/22	Apr - Jun	30%	34%	55%	31%
	Jul - Sep	27%	42%	58%	28%
	Oct - Dec	27%	41%	62%	28%
	Jan - Mar	28%	32%	53%	29%
2022/23	Apr - Jun	27%	35%	54%	29%

Table C: s78 planning appeals, number allowed by procedure type from 2016/17

Year	Quarter	Written Representations	Hearings	Inquiries	All
2016/17	Apr - Jun	822	88	45	955
	Jul - Sep	885	58	50	993
	Oct - Dec	802	63	35	900
	Jan - Mar	803	71	35	909
2017/18	Apr - Jun	701	56	35	792
	Jul - Sep	732	61	41	834
	Oct - Dec	768	72	23	863
	Jan - Mar	811	65	33	909
2018/19	Apr - Jun	679	62	29	770
	Jul - Sep	683	63	23	769
	Oct - Dec	666	44	24	734
	Jan - Mar	702	38	21	761
2019/20	Apr - Jun	877	62	31	970
	Jul - Sep	805	55	24	884
	Oct - Dec	684	67	27	778
	Jan - Mar	541	87	32	660
2020/21	Apr - Jun	304	19	2	325
	Jul - Sep	537	17	6	560
	Oct - Dec	695	38	22	755
	Jan - Mar	588	39	16	643
2021/22	Apr - Jun	633	40	39	712
	Jul - Sep	536	40	29	605
	Oct - Dec	553	41	24	618
	Jan - Mar	599	31	36	666
2022/23	Apr - Jun	513	39	33	585



## 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.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
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	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. 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.
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	A hearing involves the submission of written evidence by the main parties and a hearing once all the written submissions have been received. 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. Source: Planning Portal
Inquiries	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. At some point during or on conclusion of the inquiry the inspector and the main parties will undertake a site visit. Source: Planning Portal
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.

Term	Explanation
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:

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**Public enquiries** email [statistics@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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>