



The Planning  
Inspectorate

## Official Statistics

### 24<sup>th</sup> November 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 of decision-making, an area of particular interest for stakeholders. 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 November 2021 to October 2022
- The time taken to reach decisions
- Number of open cases
- Number of Inspectors

An additional bulletin covering the Planning Inspectorate's performance against Ministerial Measures has been published alongside this release. Those statistics are experimental and are currently being published quarterly. You can find that release on the Planning Inspectorate Research and Statistics page on Gov.uk.

The Ministerial Measures are:

- Appeals valid on first submission
- How long appeals take
- Customer Satisfaction
- Number of cases quality assured

#### The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Inspectorate makes decisions and provides recommendations and advice on a range of land use planning-related issues across England.

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.

## Summary

### Time to decide cases

The median decision time for cases decided in October 2022 was 29 weeks. This is one of the longest observed in the last 12 months and is driven by longer decision times for the cases answered by written representation. Decisions on hearings and inquiries saw the lowest monthly median of the past 12 months in October.

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

Procedure type	Last 12 months	October 2022
Written Representations	26 weeks	28 weeks
Hearings	56 weeks	40 weeks
Inquiries	51 weeks	30 weeks
All Cases	26 weeks	29 weeks

The median time for planning cases was 27 weeks in October, with the 12 month median being 25 weeks.

Enforcement decisions made in October had a median decision time of 44 weeks, with the 12 month median being 43 weeks.

In September the median decision time for October cases was 31 weeks.

The median time for planning appeals decided by inquiry under the Rosewell Process over the 12 months to September 2022 is 29 weeks.

### Decisions

The Planning Inspectorate made 17,445 appeal decisions<sup>1</sup> in the last 12 months, an average of 1,455 per month. The number of decisions in October 2022 was 1,460, just above the average number of decisions over the past 12 months.

There were 1,375 written representations decisions in October 2022; and 16,301 in the last 12 months. Pre-pandemic levels were approximately between 1,600 and 2,000 decisions per month.

There were 671 decisions made on hearings during the last 12 months, and during October 2022, 54 decisions were issued. Pre-pandemic levels for hearing decisions were between 50 and 100 decisions per month.

There were 483 decisions made on inquiries during the last 12 months, with 31 in October 2022. Decisions for inquiries since September 2021 have ranged between 32 and 78. Pre-pandemic levels for inquiry decisions were between 15 and 90 decisions per month.

### Planning Inspectors

There were 391 Planning Inspectors employed by the Inspectorate in October 2022 with a full-time equivalent of 349.

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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 C explains the scope of this release and Background Notes has further information.

## Decisions, Events & Open Cases

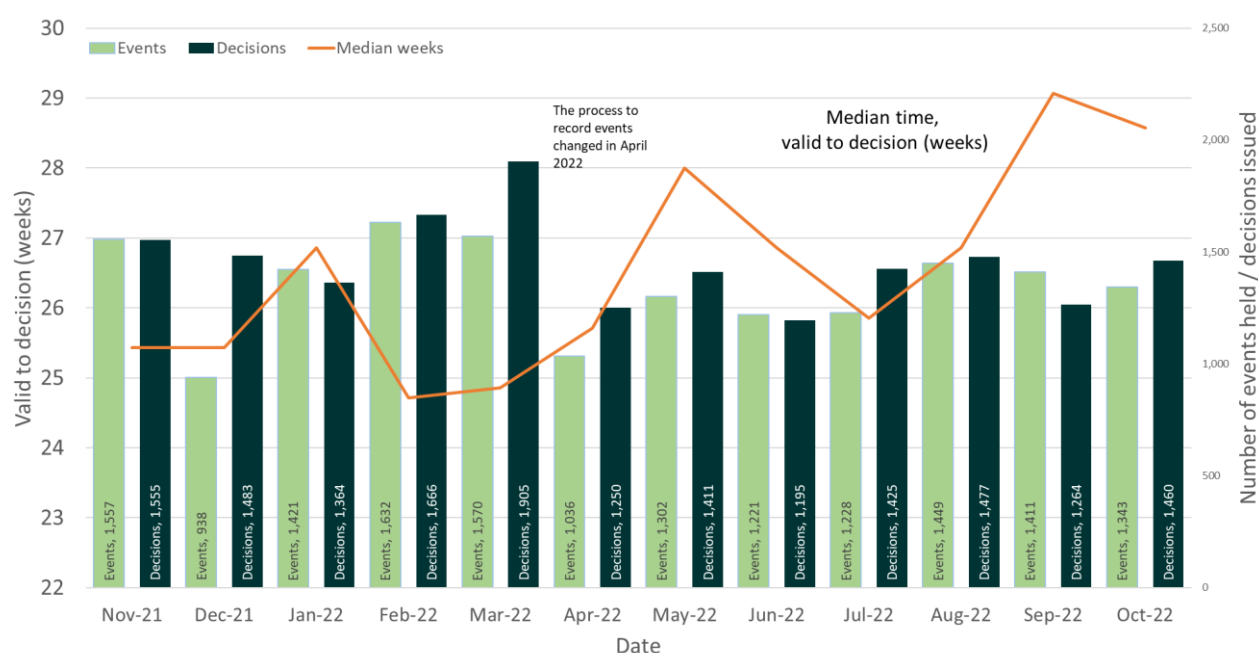
The number of receipts, decisions and closed cases reported for September 2022 is higher than was reported in the October 2022 Statistical Release. This is due to cases being updated on the casework management system after the data for the October Monthly Statistics was downloaded.

The number of decisions issued in October 2022 was 1,460, just over the average of 1,455 decisions per month over the past 12 months.

The number of events recorded for October 2022 was 1,343, the average over the past 12 month was 1,342.

The median<sup>2</sup> time to decide a case during October was 29 weeks, the same as September 2022. The median time to decide time has been between 25 – 29 weeks over the past 12 months.

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



Source: Horizon, Picaso, Inspector Scheduling System

Note: The process and admin system used for events data has changed from April 2022. See Background Quality Report for more information

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

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

Month	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Events Held	1,557	938	1,421	1,632	1,570	1,036	1,302	1,221	1,228	1,449	1,411	1,343	16,108
Decisions	1,555	1,483	1,364	1,666	1,905	1,250	1,411	1,195	1,425	1,477	1,264	1,460	17,455
Median	25.4	25.4	26.9	24.7	24.9	25.7	28.0	26.9	25.9	26.9	29.1	28.6	26.4

Source: Horizon, Picaso, Inspector Scheduling System.

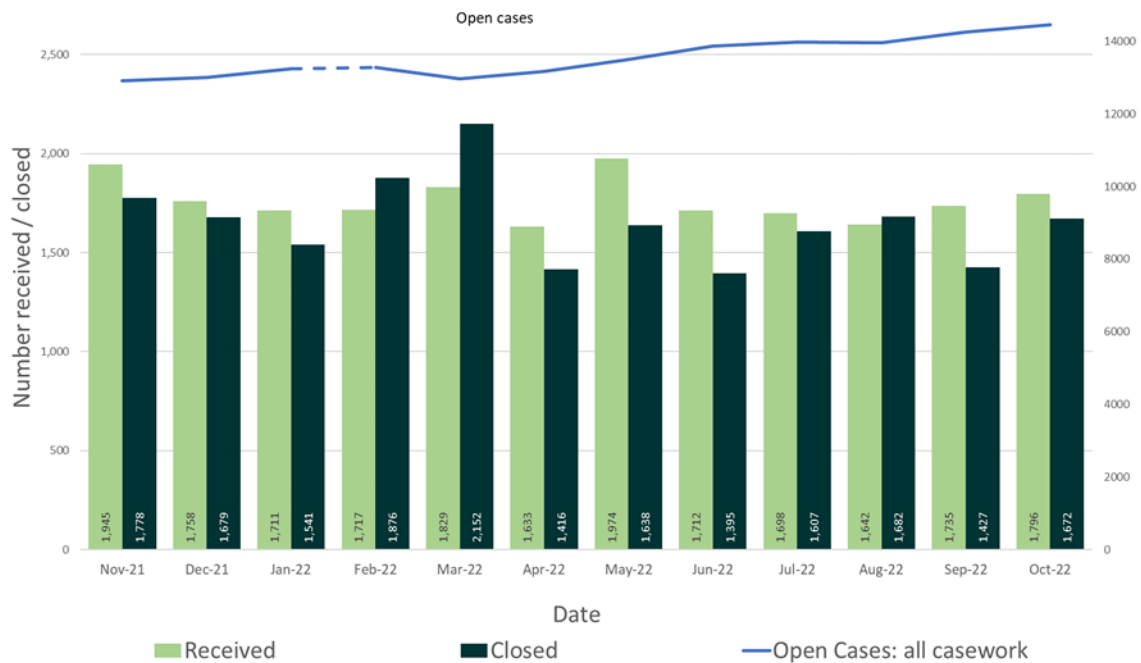
<sup>2</sup> See the section on Decision timeliness for more, including definitions of the average measures used in this release.

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

Early in 2022, PINS transitioned to a new system for scheduling casework and changed the way that specialist casework records are kept, bringing them in line with other case type 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; November 2021 to October 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

Table 2: Number of cases received, closed and open; November 2021 to October 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	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Received	1,945	1,758	1,711	1,717	1,829	1,633	1,974	1,712	1,698	1,642	1,735	1,796	21,150
Closed	1,778	1,679	1,541	1,876	2,152	1,416	1,638	1,395	1,607	1,682	1,427	1,672	19,863
Open	12913	12999	13240	13292	12974	13182	13498	13881	13977	13969	14254	14469	

Source: Horizon and Picaso

## Number of Decisions

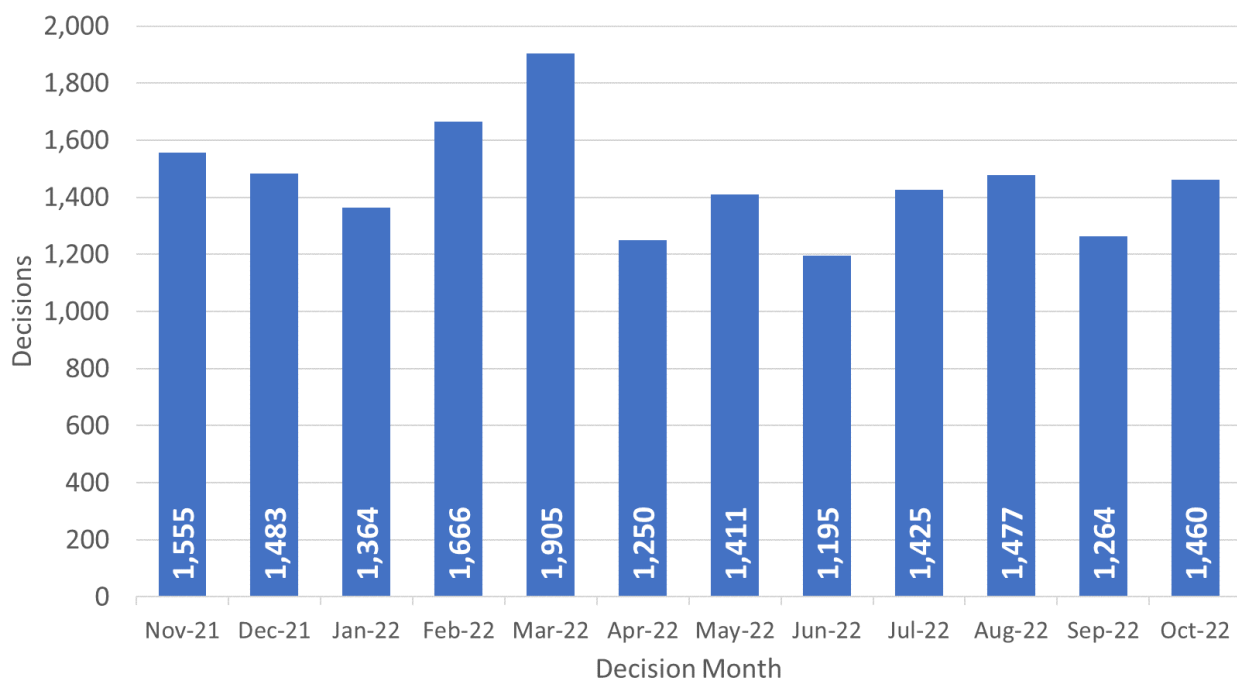
The Planning Inspectorate has made 17,455 appeal decisions<sup>4</sup> in the last 12 months. There were 1,460 cases decided in October which is around 200 more decisions than September 2022. Table 3 below shows the monthly breakdown with fewer decisions for the months of April, June and September 2022.

Table 3: Appeal Decisions; November 2021 to October 2022

Month	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Decisions	1,555	1,483	1,364	1,666	1,905	1,250	1,411	1,195	1,425	1,477	1,264	1,460	17,455

Source: Horizon and Picaso

Figure 3 – Appeal Decisions; November 2021 to October 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 (16,301) were made on written representations. This is ninety three 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.

<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 C shows the scope of this release and Background Notes has further information.

<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)

(Pre-pandemic levels being between approximately 1,600 and 2,000 decisions per month). There were 1,375 decisions in September 2022.

There were 671 decisions made on hearings during the last 12 months, the monthly average being 56. During October 2022 54 decisions were issued. Pre-pandemic levels for hearing decisions were between 50 and 100 decisions per month. In October 2022 31 decisions were made for inquiries. Decisions for inquiries since November 2021 have ranged between 24 and 78. Pre-pandemic levels for inquiry decisions were between 15 and 90 decisions per month.

Table 4: Appeal Decisions by Procedure and Casework Category; November 2021 to October 2022

Month	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Written Representations	1,457	1,398	1,249	1,594	1,809	1,154	1,289	1,108	1,337	1,360	1,171	1,375	16,301
Hearings	47	53	55	37	50	65	87	52	63	39	69	54	671
Inquiries	51	32	60	35	46	31	35	35	25	78	24	31	483
Total	1,555	1,483	1,364	1,666	1,905	1,250	1,411	1,195	1,425	1,477	1,264	1,460	17,455
Month	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Planning	1,330	1,262	1,107	1,409	1,604	980	1,148	1,009	1,172	1,163	1,016	1,264	14,464
Enforcement	193	160	208	220	253	174	214	138	167	224	185	142	2,278
Specialist	32	61	49	37	48	96	49	48	86	90	63	54	713
Total	1,555	1,483	1,364	1,666	1,905	1,250	1,411	1,195	1,425	1,477	1,264	1,460	17,455

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.

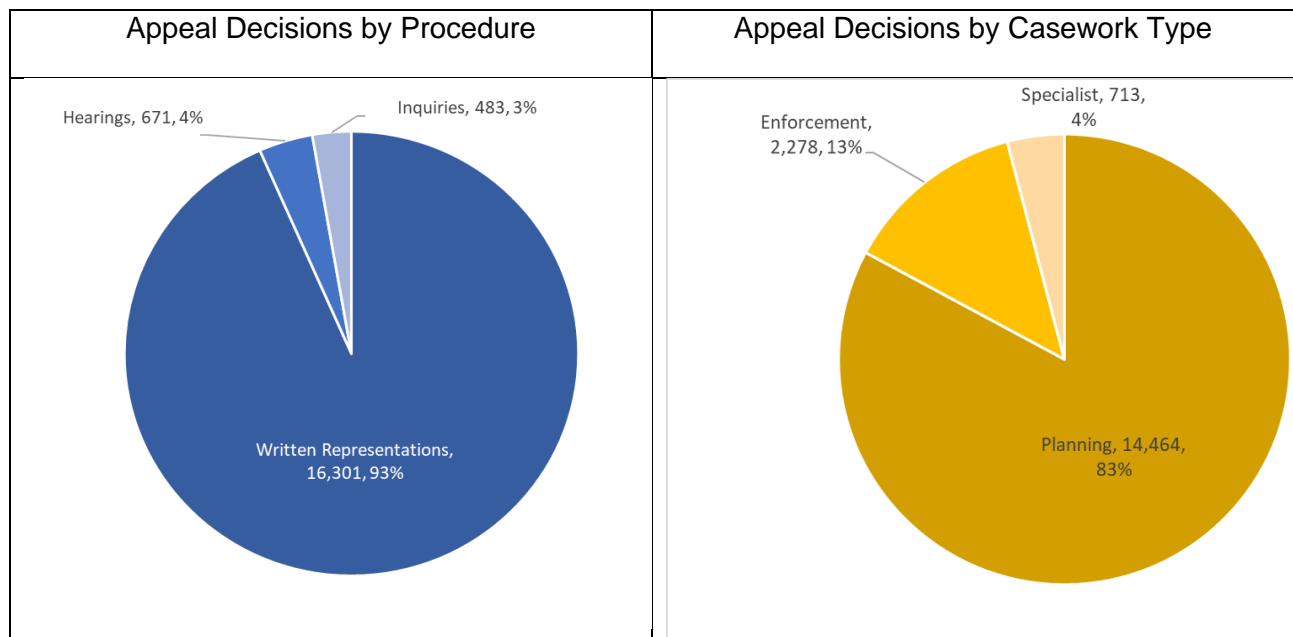
**What are Enforcement cases?** Enforcement covers enforcement appeals (i.e., appeals against the issue of an enforcement notice served by a local planning authority for alleged breaches of planning control), enforcement listed building notice appeals and lawful development certificate appeals.

**What are Specialist cases?** 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.

The large majority of cases were planning (14,464). This is about eighty-three per cent of all appeal decisions made. There were 2,278 enforcement decisions and 713 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 190. 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 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; November 2021 to October 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 informed plans and decisions. 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 26 weeks and 29 weeks in October 2022. Figure 5 shows the median has been between 25 and 29 weeks for each of 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 32 weeks. Each month the median is less than the mean, due to the very long cases. Also included in the table is the *standard deviation* of decision timeliness. The standard deviation – a measure of variation – is comparable to performance seen over the last 12 months.

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.

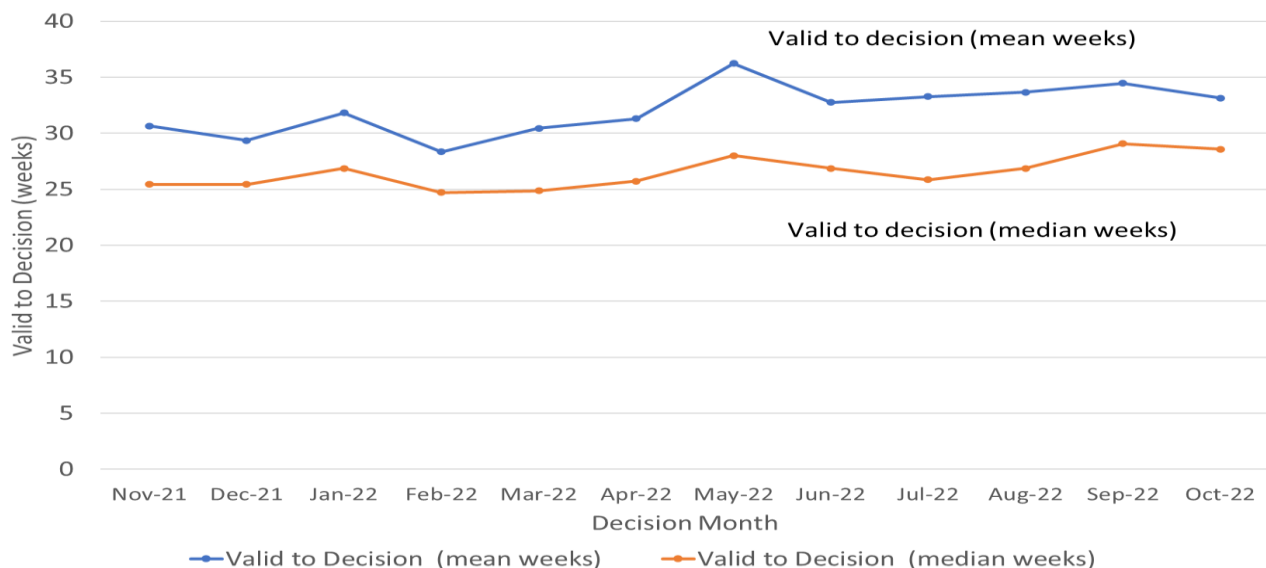
Table 5: Median, mean and Standard Deviation of Time to Decision; November 2021 to October 2022

Month	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Valid to Decision (median weeks)	25.4	25.4	26.9	24.7	24.9	25.7	28.0	26.9	25.9	26.9	29.1	28.6	26.4
Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	30.6	29.4	31.8	28.3	30.5	31.3	36.2	32.7	33.3	33.7	34.5	33.2	32.0
Standard Deviation (weeks)	21.3	17.7	22.0	17.6	24.0	24.8	31.2	25.1	27.0	23.1	22.8	19.8	23.3

Source: Horizon and Picaso



Figure 5: Median and mean Time to Decision; November 2021 to October 2022



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<sup>6</sup>, 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. Decision times for written representations were at their second longest for the 12 month period in October 2022 and this results in the overall median decision time also being at it's second highest for the period. Decisions on hearings and inquiries saw the lowest monthly median of the past 12 months in October.

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 a small number of large values than mean times, so are the focus of this commentary. The median time for written representations over the 12 months to October 2022 is 26 weeks. The median time for hearings over the 12 months to October 2022 is 56 weeks and 51 weeks for inquiries.

<sup>6</sup> Written representations includes Rights of Way Schedule 14 appeals

**Table 6: Mean and Median Time to Decision, with Standard Deviation, by Procedure; November 2021 to October 2022**

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

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

Measure	Procedure	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Valid to Decision (median weeks)	WR	24.4	24.9	25.4	24.1	24.1	24.4	27.0	26.1	25.1	26.1	28.6	28.4	25.6
	HRG	47.9	53.1	64.1	45.7	52.8	108.3	94.0	59.1	58.4	63.0	41.1	40.0	56.4
	INQ	84.9	40.6	90.9	57.3	42.1	38.4	44.3	39.6	31.1	68.6	36.5	29.6	50.7
	All	25.4	25.4	26.9	24.7	24.9	25.7	28.0	26.9	25.9	26.9	29.1	28.6	26.4
Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	WR	27.9	27.7	28.1	27.0	28.9	27.2	30.4	29.6	30.3	30.7	32.9	32.5	29.4
	HRG	60.8	61.2	75.7	57.5	60.5	90.8	113.6	87.4	84.9	67.8	51.4	44.5	74.1
	INQ	82.3	47.3	69.4	60.7	60.7	57.7	57.3	49.9	60.6	68.0	62.3	44.3	62.2
	All	30.6	29.4	31.8	28.3	30.5	31.3	36.2	32.7	33.3	33.7	34.5	33.2	32.0
Standard Deviation (weeks)	WR	15.5	15.0	15.3	15.1	21.9	17.2	18.4	17.1	20.8	19.0	20.1	18.6	18.1
	HRG	38.6	32.0	43.8	33.1	27.5	37.6	59.8	62.7	55.2	43.1	31.5	24.9	48.4
	INQ	43.8	30.0	30.5	35.4	45.8	46.2	36.5	35.8	53.8	30.6	54.9	40.8	40.7
	All	21.3	17.7	22.0	17.6	24.0	24.8	31.2	25.1	27.0	23.1	22.8	19.8	23.3
Decisions	WR	1,457	1,398	1,249	1,594	1,809	1,154	1,289	1,108	1,337	1,360	1,171	1,375	16,301
	HRG	47	53	55	37	50	65	87	52	63	39	69	54	671
	INQ	51	32	60	35	46	31	35	35	25	78	24	31	483
	All	1,555	1,483	1,364	1,666	1,905	1,250	1,411	1,195	1,425	1,477	1,264	1,460	17,455

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>7</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 has been above 24 weeks for the last twelve months.

<sup>7</sup> See the box in the section on Number of Decisions for what these categories of casework include.

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

Casework Category	Measure	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Planning Cases	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	24.6	24.6	25.3	24.3	23.6	24.9	27.0	26.0	25.0	25.1	27.0	27.4	25.3
	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	27.2	26.8	28.1	26.3	25.7	26.6	30.3	29.2	29.1	28.7	30.8	30.6	28.1
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	14.1	13.7	16.3	13.9	15.0	15.3	21.6	17.9	20.5	17.7	18.2	15.9	16.8
Enforcement Cases	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	39.9	39.1	37.5	31.1	44.6	48.0	57.8	40.9	42.1	58.6	45.0	44.1	43.1
	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	53.5	45.0	49.5	39.9	57.5	59.7	66.9	56.3	56.5	56.1	51.2	50.5	53.7
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	37.6	26.4	32.4	26.7	39.8	40.8	50.1	47.0	41.0	29.6	29.2	26.7	37.1
Specialist Cases	Valid to Decision (median weeks)	19.7	27.1	29.4	26.0	27.2	12.7	27.3	29.8	24.9	30.9	29.4	35.4	26.9
	Valid to Decision (mean weeks)	36.4	40.8	41.6	39.5	46.7	27.4	40.4	40.9	45.3	41.9	44.3	47.9	40.7
	St. dev. of decision (weeks)	40.7	32.5	37.0	36.4	45.5	30.0	34.8	27.1	41.7	29.6	37.9	40.3	36.4

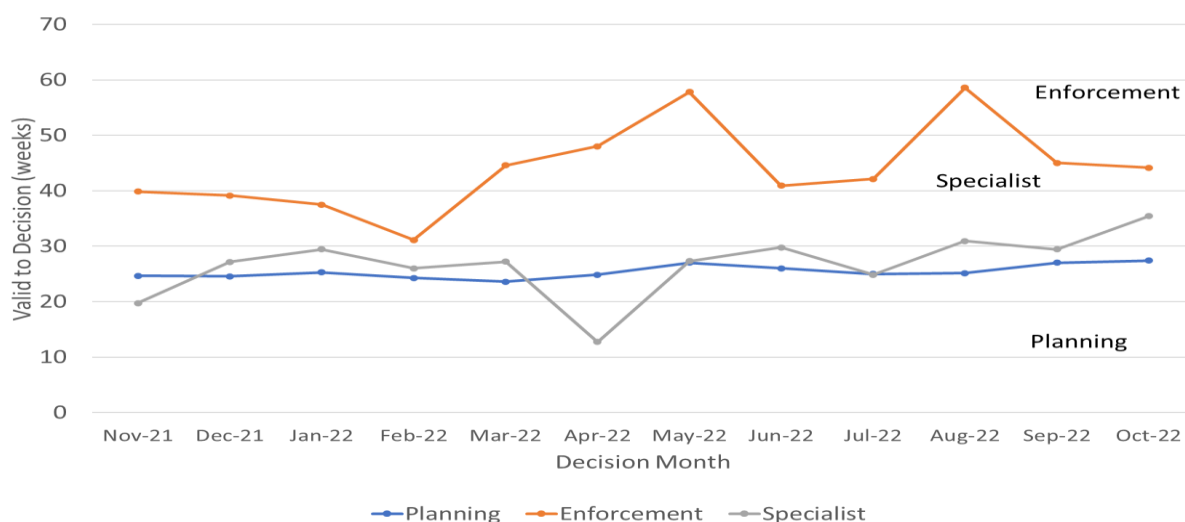
Source: Horizon and Picaso.

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 43 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 quite similar to the median for planning decisions.

Figure 6 – Median Time to Decision by Casework Category: November 2021 to October 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>8</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 October 2022 is 29 weeks and the median time to decision for October 2022 was 26 weeks.

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

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

Measure	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Decisions	19	14	21	23	22	14	24	22	13	18	11	23	224
Median (weeks)	28.6	27.4	31.9	42.1	30.0	30.2	32.1	30.9	23.3	26.0	28.6	26.0	28.8
Mean (weeks)	36.8	29.2	37.8	47.0	35.5	35.5	41.6	31.6	23.9	30.9	29.5	29.1	34.9
St. Dev. (weeks)	18.7	8.5	19.6	19.7	14.2	13.6	19.2	11.4	4.6	14.0	9.4	10.8	16.2

Most inquiry decisions now being issued are under the revised 'Rosewell'<sup>9</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; November 2021 to October 2022

Note: Number of decisions for September is affected by decisions being recorded after statistics downloaded.

Month	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
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<sup>8</sup> Data also published on gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appeals-average-timescales-for-arranging-inquiries-and-hearings>

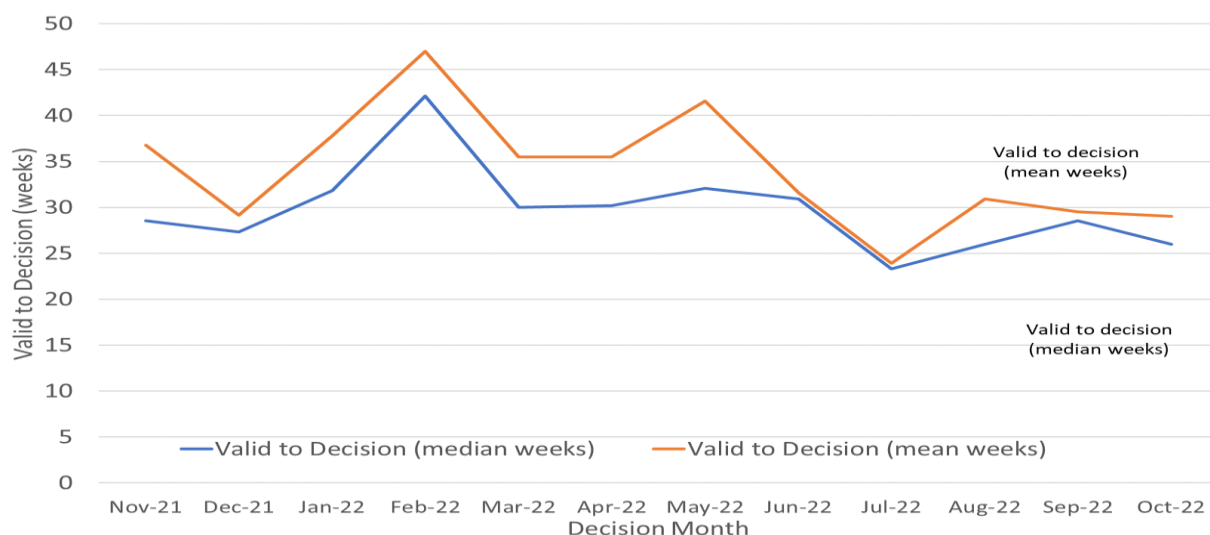
<sup>9</sup> The 'Rosewell' process introduced changes to how the inquiry event date was agreed and a firm timetable for submission of documentation. Further information on what the Rosewell Review concluded is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-planning-appeal-inquiries-report>

Decisions	0	3	2	0	3	3	1	1	2	3	0	1	19
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Source: Horizon

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; November 2021 to October 2022



Source: Horizon

## Open Cases

At the end of October 2022, the Planning Inspectorate had 14,446 cases open<sup>10</sup> (). 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 12,685 cases being handled through written representations; 952 through hearings; and 723 through inquiries, as well as 86 not currently allocated a procedure type. 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>10</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 October 2022

Stage	Written Representations	Hearings	Inquiries	Total
Cases received but yet to be deemed valid	1,988	59	3	2,050
Cases deemed valid but yet to 'start'	2,811	88	83	3,038
Case started but event (site visit/hearing/inquiry) has not yet happened	7,748	722	511	9,002
Event has happened/started but decision not yet issued	138	83	126	356
Total	12,685	952	723	14,446

Source: Horizon

Note 1 - there are 86 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.

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 November 2021 to October 2022<sup>11</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 391 Planning Inspectors employed by the Inspectorate in September 2022 – with a full-time equivalent of 349.

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

Month	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22
Headcount	360	361	360	357	357	355	365	371	378	376	388	391
FTE	323.2	322.8	320.9	318.9	319.1	316.6	325.9	331.5	337.7	335.0	346.2	348.9

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 Planning and Appeal Decision Suppliers (previously referred to as non-salaried Inspectors)).

<sup>11</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 C and the separate Background Quality Report.

## 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. This applies to November and December 2021 and April, July and September 2022 for inquiries decisions.

Procedure	Measure	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	1,274	1,204	1,051	1,356	1,544	932	1,080	949	1,110	1,115	958	1,198	13,771
	Median Average Weeks	24.1	24.2	24.7	23.9	23.1	24.2	26.4	25.3	24.4	25.0	26.9	27.4	24.9
	Mean Average Weeks	26.3	25.8	26.5	25.3	25.0	25.2	27.6	27.6	26.9	27.9	30.1	30.3	26.9
	Standard Deviation	12.0	11.5	12.4	12.5	14.3	12.2	13.7	14.5	13.9	15.7	17.1	15.6	13.9
Hearings	Decisions	37	41	33	30	35	31	43	37	47	27	47	42	450
	Median Average Weeks	45.9	49.4	55.9	43.6	48.4	53.0	61.4	51.1	55.9	42.6	38.3	31.9	49.2
	Mean Average Weeks	54.3	56.7	70.7	51.5	52.5	64.8	90.0	66.4	80.8	55.4	45.8	39.1	61.0
	Standard Deviation	34.1	29.7	39.0	27.0	20.2	34.9	58.4	41.6	54.8	43.0	30.5	23.1	41.4
Inquires	Decisions	19	17	23	23	25	17	25	23	15	21	11	24	243
	Median Average Weeks	28.6	23.9	31.9	42.1	28.0	33.7	33.6	31.0	24.0	26.0	28.6	25.9	29.0
	Mean Average Weeks	36.8	29.1	41.0	47.0	35.6	37.4	45.3	33.2	29.4	37.5	29.5	28.5	36.5
	Standard Deviation	18.7	10.5	25.4	19.7	15.1	13.7	26.1	13.4	14.8	27.2	9.4	10.8	19.7
All Planning Cases	Decisions	1,330	1,262	1,107	1,409	1,604	980	1,148	1,009	1,172	1,163	1,016	1,264	14,464
	Median Average Weeks	27.2	26.8	28.1	26.3	25.7	26.6	30.3	29.2	29.1	28.7	30.8	30.6	28.1
	Mean Average Weeks	24.6	24.6	25.3	24.3	23.6	24.9	27.0	26.0	25.0	25.1	27.0	27.4	25.3
	Standard Deviation	14.1	13.7	16.3	13.9	15.0	15.3	21.6	17.9	20.5	17.7	18.2	15.9	16.8



## Enforcement

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

Procedure	Measure	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	156	137	155	203	225	131	166	119	154	164	160	128	1,898
	Median Average Weeks	31.6	37.4	31.7	28.6	42.6	36.7	45.8	37.3	39.0	40.0	44.7	39.7	36.4
	Mean Average Weeks	42.1	41.5	37.2	36.6	55.0	44.8	47.9	43.1	52.7	46.3	48.3	49.0	45.6
	Standard Deviation	28.2	23.9	22.1	21.9	38.9	29.1	28.8	24.2	36.3	25.3	23.4	26.9	28.9
Hearings	Decisions	9	10	19	6	11	31	41	11	10	6	14	11	179
	Median Average Weeks	55.3	60.5	66.7	55.7	63.0	118.9	170.3	223.7	75.0	99.6	39.7	53.7	94.0
	Mean Average Weeks	82.7	71.6	81.8	72.3	64.9	111.8	140.5	165.3	107.1	101.1	57.5	64.6	102.8
	Standard Deviation	46.6	33.7	47.4	36.3	22.5	19.0	50.7	70.8	64.4	25.4	30.0	22.2	53.6
Inquires	Decisions	28	13	34	11	17	12	7	8	3	54	11	3	201
	Median Average Weeks	118.3	48.0	90.9	71.9	58.3	49.3	78.0	96.1	52.7	68.6	62.3	67.6	78.6
	Mean Average Weeks	107.6	60.9	87.3	84.0	86.0	88.5	86.7	103.3	81.7	80.9	85.9	61.2	86.6
	Standard Deviation	26.8	27.1	15.4	44.0	48.0	60.7	37.2	35.9	43.7	22.2	62.5	12.2	36.3
All Enforcement Cases	Decisions	193	160	208	220	253	174	214	138	167	224	185	142	2,278
	Median Average Weeks	39.9	39.1	37.5	31.1	44.6	48.0	57.8	40.9	42.1	58.6	45.0	44.1	43.1
	Mean Average Weeks	53.5	45.0	49.5	39.9	57.5	59.7	66.9	56.3	56.5	56.1	51.2	50.5	53.7
	Standard Deviation	37.6	26.4	32.4	26.7	39.8	40.8	50.1	47.0	41.0	29.6	29.2	26.7	37.1

## 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.

Procedure	Measure	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Total
Written Representations	Decisions	27	57	43	35	40	91	43	40	73	81	53	49	632
	Median Average Weeks	17.3	24.9	29.0	24.9	24.1	11.3	23.3	25.8	22.9	27.9	25.9	33.9	24.6
	Mean Average Weeks	21.3	36.1	35.0	33.9	32.4	23.2	33.5	38.1	35.3	38.1	37.3	41.4	33.8
	Standard Deviation	14.7	27.5	30.1	28.9	29.8	22.1	27.8	27.1	30.7	26.7	33.7	30.7	28.5
Hearings	Decisions	1	2	3	1	4	3	3	4	6	6	8	1	42
	Median Average Weeks	101.9	101.9	130.1	149.1	127.9	141.0	90.9	75.1	76.4	82.6	67.5	50.4	79.4
	Mean Average Weeks	101.9	101.9	93.2	149.1	118.7	141.5	85.7	68.0	80.7	90.5	73.5	50.4	91.1
	Standard Deviation	0.0	26.2	58.0	0.0	22.9	15.4	29.0	14.7	24.4	28.4	27.5	0.0	35.7
Inquires	Decisions	4	2	3	1	4	2	3	4	7	3	2	4	39
	Median Average Weeks	113.4	113.9	95.1	119.7	109.4	44.8	66.9	43.9	165.6	35.6	112.9	128.7	84.9
	Mean Average Weeks	121.7	113.9	84.0	119.7	110.0	44.8	89.4	39.1	118.5	48.8	112.9	126.5	96.1
	Standard Deviation	43.4	15.6	29.6	0.0	61.3	1.6	49.0	13.6	58.4	18.7	51.2	60.3	54.6
All Specialist Cases	Decisions	32	61	49	37	48	96	49	48	86	90	63	54	713
	Median Average Weeks	19.7	27.1	29.4	26.0	27.2	12.7	27.3	29.8	24.9	30.9	29.4	35.4	26.9
	Mean Average Weeks	36.4	40.8	41.6	39.5	46.7	27.4	40.4	40.9	45.3	41.9	44.3	47.9	40.7
	Standard Deviation	40.7	32.5	37.0	36.4	45.5	30.0	34.8	27.1	41.7	29.6	37.9	40.3	36.4

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

The information below is published today on the number and length of decisions made in October 2022<sup>12</sup>:

Note 1: when there are fewer than 20 decisions the measures mean, median and standard deviation are less meaningful. This applies to 11 enforcement hearings and 3 inquiries.

Casework Type	Procedure Type	Median (weeks)	Mean (weeks)	Decisions
s78 planning appeals	Written Representations	30.7	34.5	737
	Hearings	31.9	39.1	42
	Inquiries	25.9	28.5	23
Householder appeals	Written Representations	18.5	21.9	374
Enforcement appeals	Written Representations	39.7	49.0	128
	Hearings	53.7	64.6	11
	Inquiries	67.6	61.2	3

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 1: 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	
Weeks between valid date & start date				
Median (average)	12.6	5.1	1.4	5.6
Mean (average)	13.4	6.9	1.6	6.9
Cases that started in October 2022	779	58	21	259
Weeks between start date & event date				
Median (average)	12.9	14.1	15.9	9.9
Mean (average)	17.3	24.4	20.3	13.8
Cases where an event occurred during October 2022	730	51	19	296
Weeks between event date & decision date				
Median (average)	4.3	4.4	6.4	3.7
Mean (average)	5.7	6.0	9.9	4.4
Cases that have been decided in October 2022	684	37	21	370

Note: Only cases with both dates recorded appear in this table, meaning that numbers for cases decided and events recorded may be lower than those presented elsewhere.

<sup>12</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 – Revisions to the data tables

This Annex 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).

The number of receipts, decisions and closed cases reported for September 2022 have all been revised upwards since the October 2022 Statistical Release. This is due to cases being updated on the casework management system after the data for the October Monthly Statistics was downloaded. For all future Official Statistics production we will extract data on or after the third working day of the month, to reduce the likelihood that revisions like this are needed.

Table	Revisions
Table 1	Events held: August 2022; Decisions: September 2022
Table 2	Received cases: September 2022; Closed cases: March, April and September 2022; Open Cases: September 2022.
Table 3	Decisions: September 2022
Table 4	September 2022: Written Representations, Hearings, Planning and Enforcement.
Table 5	September 2022: Standard deviation
Table 6	Valid to Decision (median) September 2022; Valid to Decision (mean) April, May and September 2022; Standard Deviation, April, May and September 2022.
Table 7	Planning Casework: standard deviation September 2022; Enforcement Casework: median, mean and standard deviation September 2022; Specialist Casework, median, mean and standard deviation.
Annex A	Planning Casework: Written Representations decisions September 2022;

	<p>Hearings decisions September 2022, median September 2022 and mean April and September 2022;  Inquiries, decisions, median, mean and standard deviation.</p> <p>Enforcement Casework  Written Representations, decisions, median, mean and standard deviation September 2022;  Hearings, mean and standard deviation September 2022;  Inquiries, mean and standard deviation September 2022.</p> <p>Specialist Casework  Written Representations, median, mean and standard deviation September 2022;  Hearings, median, mean and standard deviation September 2022.</p>
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## 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.

Term	Explanation
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>
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.



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  (includes Rights of Way Schedule 14)	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  
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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>