



Planning Inspectorate

Ministerial Measures - Experimental Statistics 19th February 2026

Introduction

This report provides information on how the Planning Inspectorate has performed against measures by which Ministers agreed to assess the organisation's casework performance for appeals.

These measures are:

- A. Appeals valid on first submission
- B. How long appeals take
 - There is also an ambition for more consistent, timely decisions
- C. Customer satisfaction
- D. Number of cases quality assured

Full details of these are available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1049462/Housing_Minister_letter_to_PINS.pdf

For measure A, this report covers the period July 2024 to September 2025.

Measure B covers the 12 months from January 2025 to December 2025.

For measure C, survey fieldwork was carried out in April and early May 2023.

Measure D covers the three months October to December 2025.

These statistics are designated as Official Statistics in Development. Any feedback would be welcome. Please send comments to

statistics@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

A. Appeals Valid on First Submission

Ambition: Proportion rising annually and ambition to reach 100%.

For appeals received during July – September 2025, 53.4% were valid first time¹. Table 1 shows the proportion valid on first submission over the year.

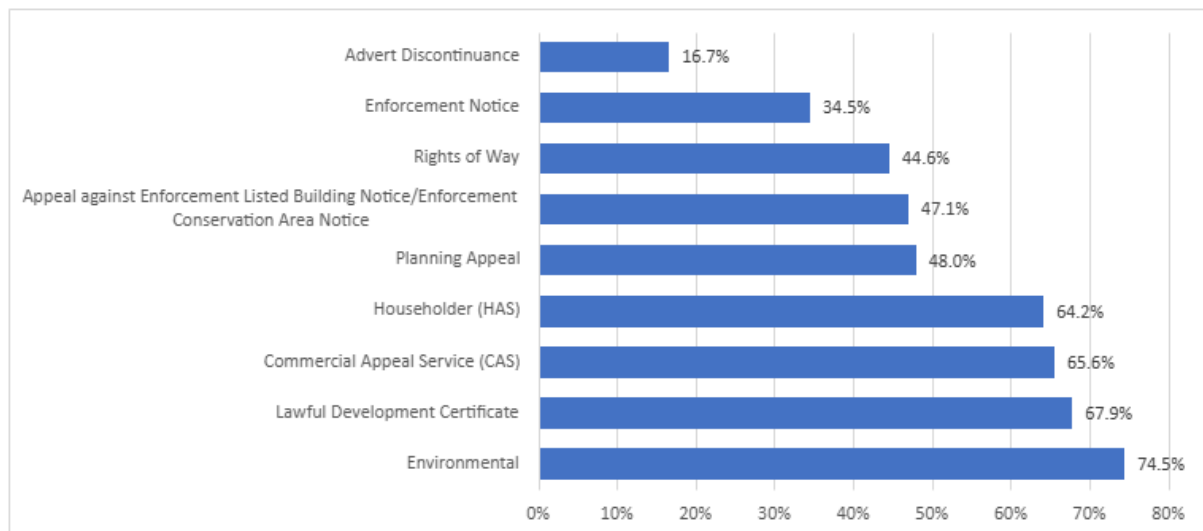
The figures in this time series are revised at each publication as some cases take many months to be validated.

Table 1 - Proportion of Appeals Valid on First Submission, By Quarter, for Appeals Received July 2024 to September 2025.

Appeals Received	Jul – Sep 2024	Oct – Dec 2024	Jan – Mar 2025	Apr – Jun 2025	Jul – Sep 2025
% Valid First Time	51.1%	51.3%	52.0%	51.5%	53.4%

Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

Figure 1 – Proportion of Appeals Valid on First Submission for Selected Appeal Types, Cases Received October 2024 to September 2025.



Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

¹ Please note that this is calculated using a proxy: included are those cases where the date that the appeal had been validly received, is the same as the date that the case was first received. Additionally, be aware that the date for 'validly received' is the date on which the information was received, even if it is assessed as being valid on a later date.

B. How Long Appeals Take

Ambition: As an initial milestone in making more consistent, timely decisions - The Planning Inspectorate should be working towards consistently achieving decisions in these ranges:

Appeals decided entirely using written evidence in 16 – 20 weeks.

Appeals decided including at least some evidence through hearing or inquiry in 24 - 26 weeks (30 weeks to recommendation for called in or recovered cases)

Note: We are currently working towards a solution to exclude Rights of Way from the next Ministerial Measures release. Casework for these is done on behalf of a different Secretary of State, and as such they have their own targets that do not align with the 20 and 26 weeks.

This section provides information on how long it has taken to make decisions in the last 12 months (in this case, January 2025 to December 2025).

Figure 2 below shows the proportion of cases decided:

- within 20 weeks²;
- within 26 weeks (but more than 20 weeks);
- within 52 weeks (but more than 26 weeks); and
- more than 52 weeks.

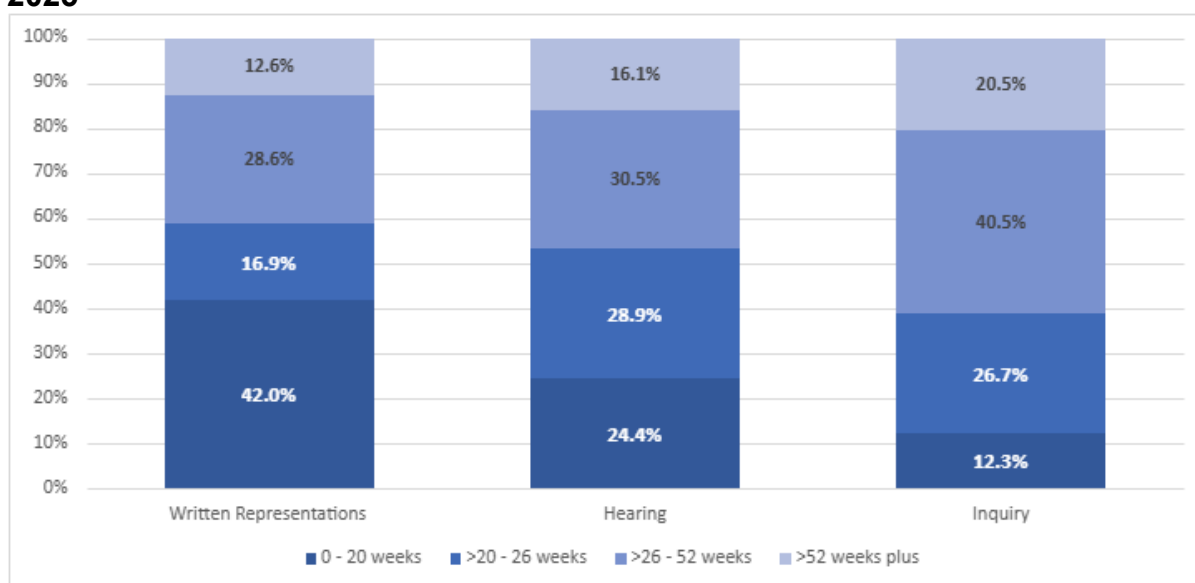
The data applies to all cases decided in the year to the end of December 2025 and is broken down by the procedure used to arrive at the decision. The data for this Figure is available at Annex B.

Figure 2 shows that a much smaller proportion (12.6%) of cases decided by written representations take more than a year than those decided by hearings (16.1%) or inquiries (20.5%).

It also shows that a greater proportion of cases decided by written representations are decided within 20 weeks (42.0%) than those decided by hearings (24.4%) or inquiries (12.3%).

² The count of measures “within” a given number of weeks, includes cases which took that number of weeks to decide. For example, cases that took 20 weeks are included in the “within 20 weeks” count.

Figure 2: Time for Valid to Decision, for Decisions January 2025 to December 2025



Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

Measures set by the Minister that apply to cases decided wholly by written representations are shown in Annex C.

Consultation

If you would like to make a suggestion on which information you would like to see; or would like to have the chance to comment on any proposals on what is published, please contact us via statistics@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Figure 2 shows the proportion of cases decided in time bands. Figure 3 below shows more detail. It gives the full spread of time taken to decide cases, providing visibility of those cases far outside the accepted range. It shows all cases decided in the 12 months to the end of December 2025; and a breakdown by the decision procedure.

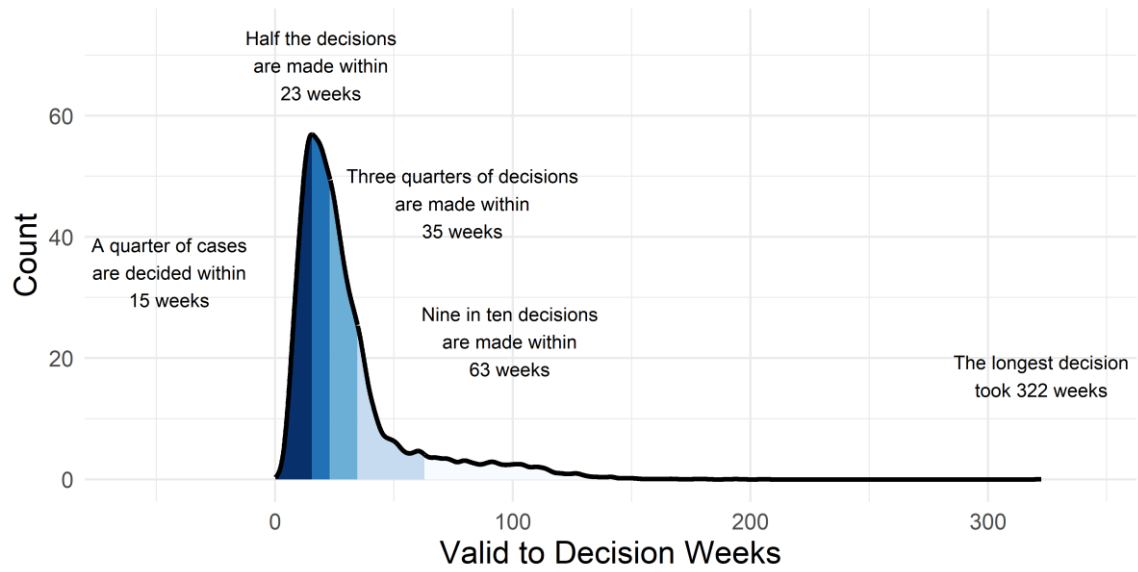
Figure 3 shows:

- The spread of time taken to decide for all cases, is similar to the spread for those decided wholly by written representations. This is because the large majority (18,741/19,982 which is 94%) of cases are decided this way.
- Three quarters of cases decided wholly by written representations are decided within 34 weeks. The corresponding time for three quarters of cases decided wholly or partly by hearings is 40 weeks and for those wholly or partly by inquiries is 51 weeks.
- Nine in ten cases decided wholly by written representations are decided within 62 weeks. The corresponding time for nine out ten cases decided wholly or partly by hearings is 71 weeks and for inquiries it is 82 weeks.

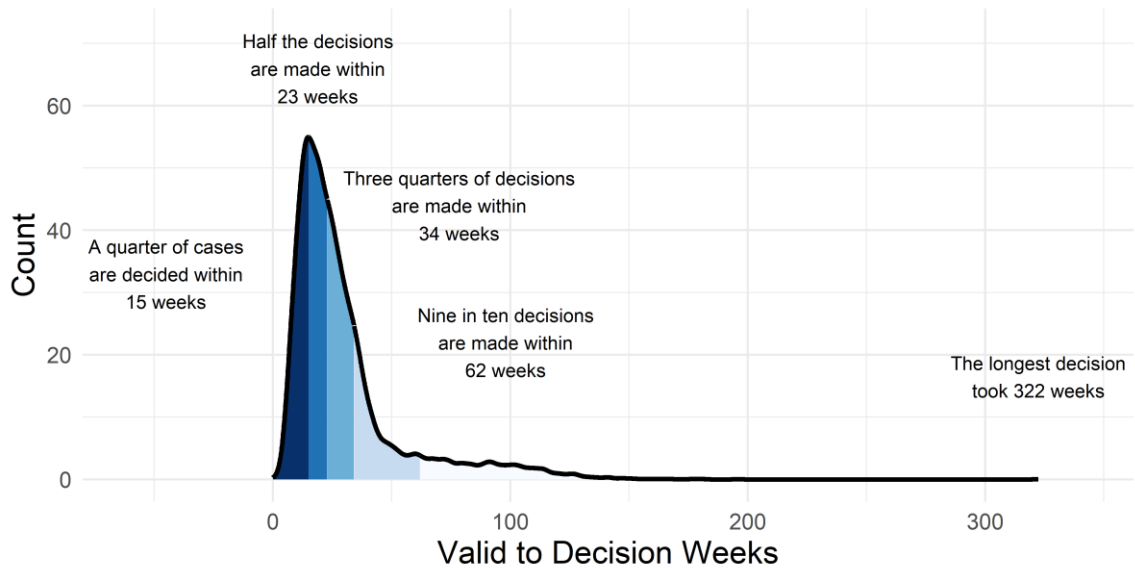
Figure 3 – Spread of time taken to decide cases (in weeks), for cases decided January 2025 – December 2025

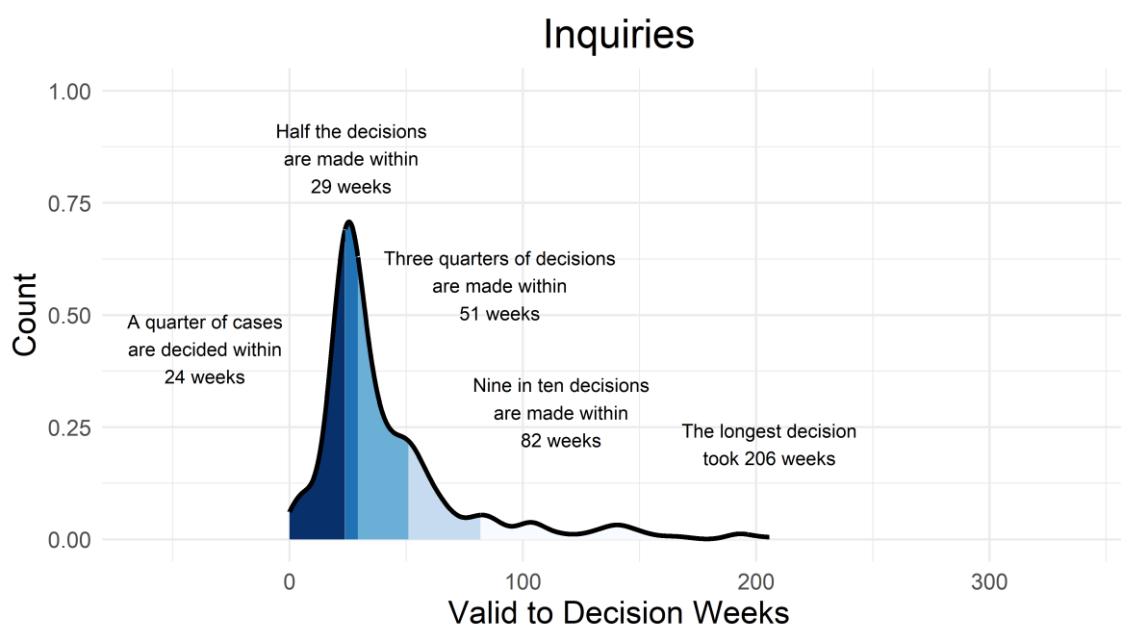
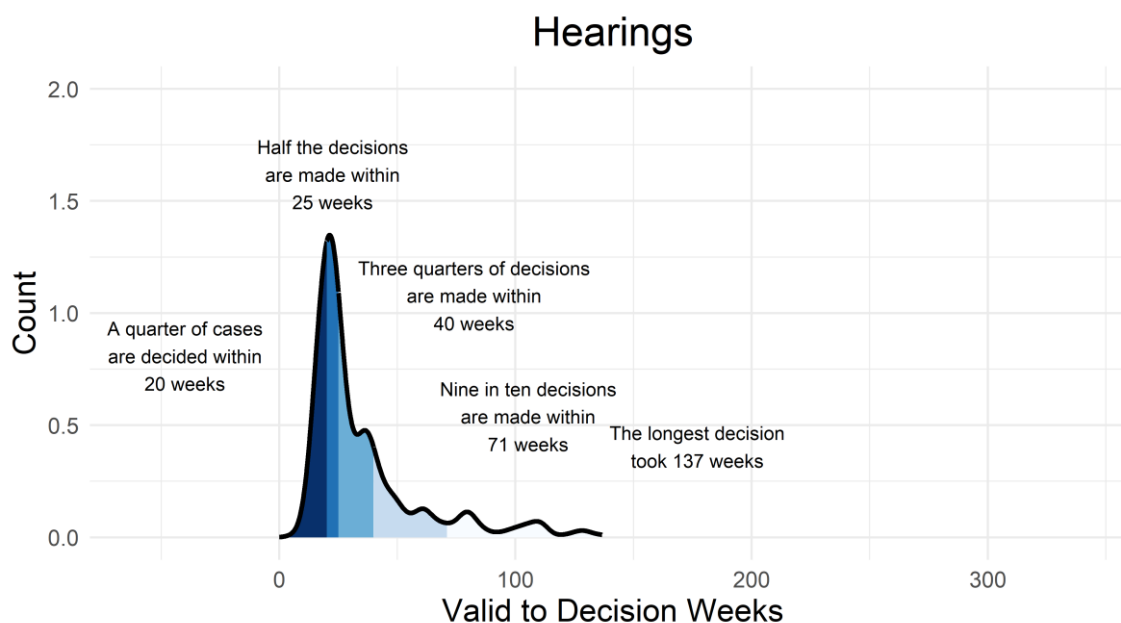
Note: The figure for “Half the decisions are made within” is the 50th percentile; this is the same as the median time to decide these cases, which is how this is presented in the quarterly Official Statistics publication.

All Cases



Written Representation





Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

The Ministerial measure³ requires information on how long appeal decisions take from valid receipt to decision⁴, with information on various percentiles.

Ambition: Decision time for 50th percentile falling. Decision time for 90th percentile falling faster than 50th percentile.

The ambition is that cases are decided more quickly, and the time taken for longest cases is reduced. If the ambition is met, the gap between the 50th percentile and 90th percentile needs to reduce.

³ Measure: How long appeal decisions take from valid receipt to decision with information on 25th, 50th, 75th, 90th and 100th percentiles accompanied by reasons to explain what factors affected longer or shorter timeframes.

⁴ As noted in Footnote 1 above, the date for 'validly received' is the date on which the information was received, even if it is assessed as being valid on a later date.

What is a percentile?

A percentile is a measure that shows the value below which a given percentage of the values in a group of numbers fall.

For example, if we tell you the 25th percentile for decision times, then you know that 25% of decisions are issued in less time (or the same time) as that.

Table 2 below shows the 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles for valid to decision, in weeks, for the decisions made from January 2025 to December 2025. Note that these match the timings given in text on the shapes in Figure 3 above.

Table 2 - Percentiles for Valid to Decision (in weeks) for decisions made January 2025 to December 2025 – and number of decisions in that time

Note: There are currently 2 cases that have been excluded from the decision count. This is due to an issue affecting the data whereby the valid date is after the decision date. We are working on a solution to fix this.

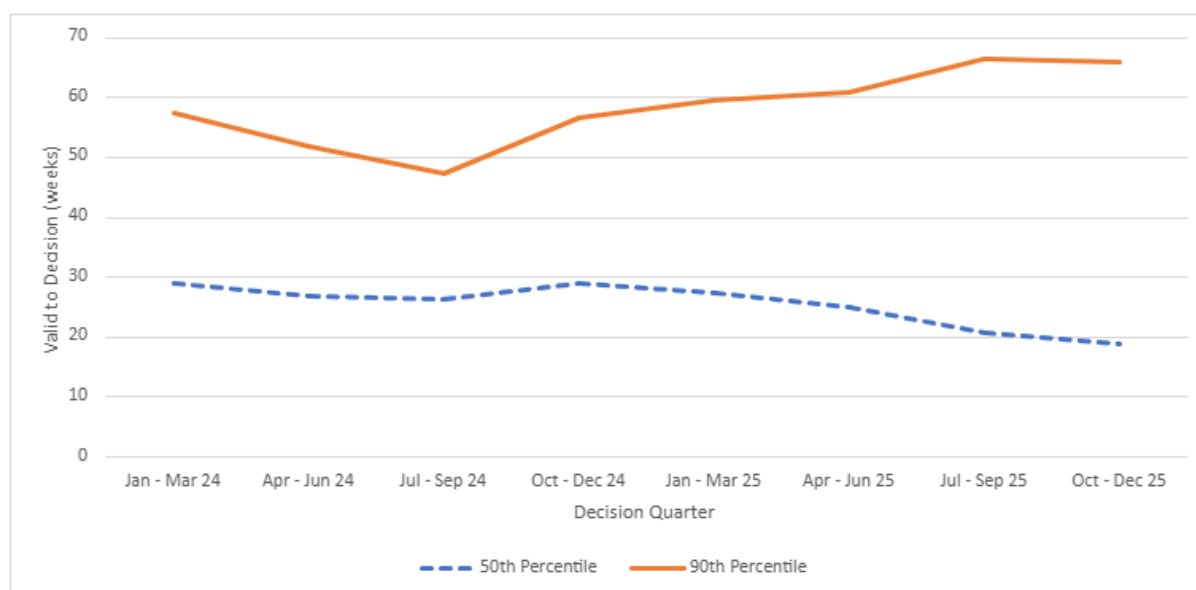
Procedure	25th percentile	50th percentile	75th percentile	90th percentile	100th percentile	Number of decisions
Written reps	15 weeks	23 weeks	34 weeks	62 weeks	322 weeks	18,741
Hearing	20 weeks	25 weeks	40 weeks	71 weeks	137 weeks	836
Inquiry	24 weeks	29 weeks	51 weeks	82 weeks	206 weeks	405
All	15 weeks	23 weeks	35 weeks	63 weeks	322 weeks	19,982

Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

If performance changes, it will be more quickly apparent by looking at quarterly data than 12 monthly data. Annex D shows the same percentiles, for decisions in the three months October to December 2025.

There are relatively few hearings and inquiries in each quarter, which means quarterly percentiles for these appeals are susceptible to extreme values - so they should be viewed with caution.

Figure 4: All Appeal Decisions, 50th and 90th Percentile for Valid to Decision, By Quarter, January 2024 – December 2025



Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

Table 3 - All appeal Decisions, 50th and 90th percentiles of Valid to Decision (weeks), January 2024 – December 2025

Decision made:	50th percentile	90th percentile	Gap
Jan - Mar 24	29 Weeks	57 Weeks	28 Weeks
Apr - Jun 24	27 Weeks	52 Weeks	25 Weeks
Jul - Sep 24	26 Weeks	47 Weeks	21 Weeks
Oct - Dec 24	29 Weeks	57 Weeks	28 Weeks
Jan - Mar 25	27 Weeks	59 Weeks	32 Weeks
Apr - Jun 25	25 Weeks	61 Weeks	36 Weeks
Jul - Sep 25	21 Weeks	66 Weeks	46 Weeks
Oct - Dec 25	19 Weeks	66 Weeks	47 Weeks

Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

The table above covers all appeal decisions. Annex F gives figures for appeals decided wholly by written representations; wholly or partially through hearings; and wholly or partially through inquiries.

C. Customer Satisfaction

Ambition: Proportion of customers reporting satisfaction with the Planning Inspectorate's services rising annually

No new validated customer satisfaction score is available for this reporting period.

The Planning Inspectorate has undertaken a further customer survey; however we are currently carrying out due diligence on changes made to the survey design, sampling approach and analysis. Until this work is complete, we cannot be confident that the new results are directly comparable with the 2023 baseline score of 56.8.

Our immediate focus is to:

- fully understand any changes in survey design and delivery;
- assess whether meaningful comparison with the 2023 results is possible; and
- determine whether a reset or revised approach to measuring customer satisfaction is required.

We will be explicit in future publications about the status of this measure, and will include updated customer satisfaction information once an appropriate, validated approach has been confirmed.

D. Number of Cases Quality Assured

Ambition: There is no minimum number or percentage ambition on this measure.

During the three months October to December, 1,428 appeal cases were quality assured. These are shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 - Number of appeal decisions quality assured, October to December 2025

Number	Category	Explanation
236	Inspector Manager team reading	Inspector Managers are expected to review a proportion of their Inspectors' decisions post-decision. This is to ensure quality standards and to identify learning opportunities and to check for consistency with the relevant quality framework.
257	APOs	Recommendations made by Appeals Planning Officers (APOs) are all reviewed as part of routine quality assurance before a decision is issued by an Inspector.
935	Inspector in Training – pre-decision	Most decisions made by Inspectors in Training (IITs) are reviewed for teaching purposes. Each review is by an experienced Inspector.
1,428	Total Appeal decisions	

Source: MiPINS

To put these totals in context, the 1,428 appeal decisions quality assured constitutes over a quarter (28%) of all decisions (5,129) issued over that period.

Table 5 shows the number of cases quality assured, beyond appeal cases, for the same quarter. These are much larger, more complex cases than the typical appeal case.

Table 5 - Number of Other Cases Quality Assured, October to December 2025

Number	Category	Explanation
6	Local Plans	All Local Plans are quality assured as part of the examination process. 6 Local Plan Reports were issued in this quarter; quality assurance also took place for plans yet to be published.
4	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)	All NSIP decisions are quality assured as part of the examination process. 7 recommendation reports were submitted to the Secretary of State this quarter.

Source: Local Plan and NSIP case records

Annex A - Proportion of Appeals Valid First Time for Selected Appeal Types, Appeals Received October 2024 to September 2025

Appeal Type	Proportion valid on first submission	Number of Appeals Received
Planning Appeal	48.0%	9493
Householder (HAS)	64.2%	4394
Enforcement Notice	34.5%	2498
Lawful Development Certificate	67.9%	913
Commercial Appeal Service (CAS)	65.6%	486
Rights of Way	44.6%	382
Environmental	74.5%	178
Appeal against Enforcement Listed Building Notice/Enforcement Conservation Area Notice	47.1%	54
Advert Discontinuance	16.7%	8

Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

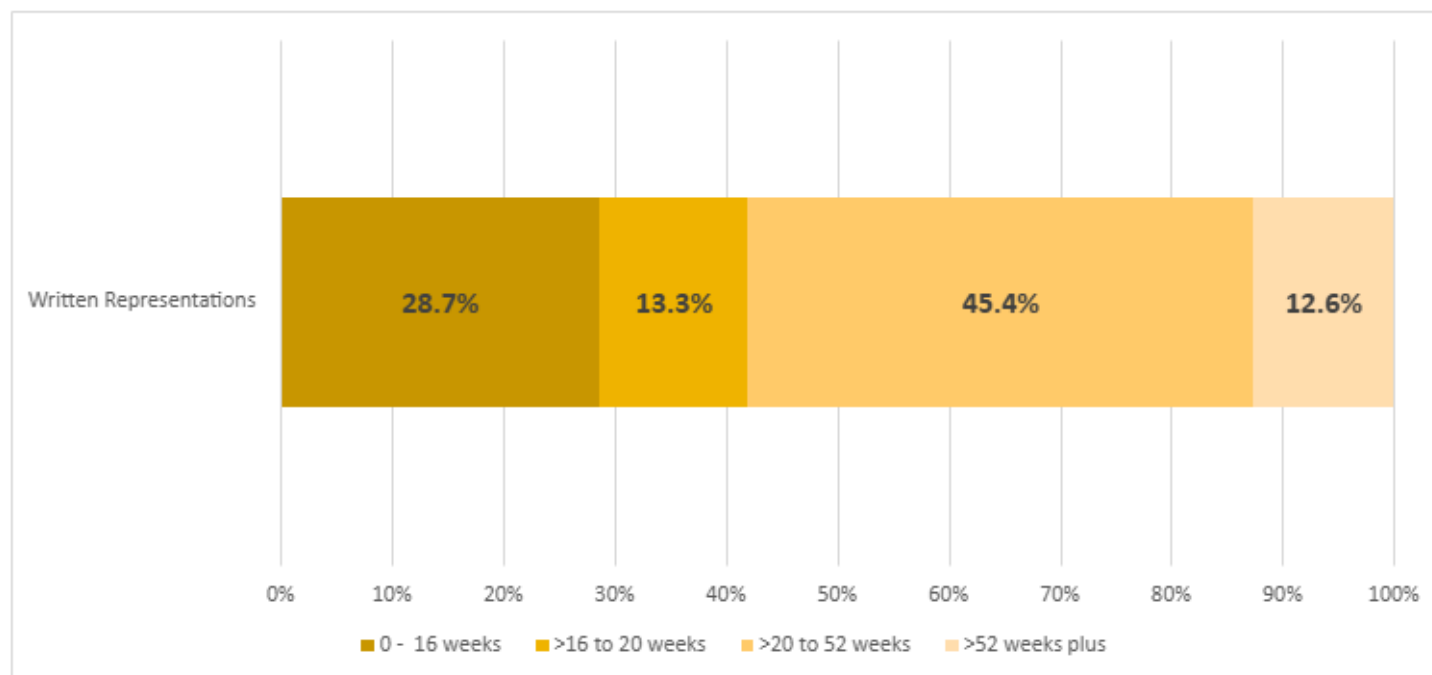
Note: Appeals not yet validated are included in the number of appeals received but excluded from the calculation on proportion valid on first submission

Annex B: Proportion of Appeals decided within 20, 26 and 52 weeks - Decisions January 2025 to December 2025

	Within 20 weeks	Within 26 weeks	Within 52 weeks	More than 52 weeks
Wholly Written Reps	42.0%	16.9%	28.6%	12.6%
Wholly or partly Hearings	24.4%	28.9%	30.5%	16.1%
Wholly or partly Inquiries	12.3%	26.7%	40.5%	20.5%

Annex C: Decisions made wholly through written representations – Decisions January 2025 to December 2025 - Weeks from valid to Decision

Performance against Ministerial measures – note this takes different groupings (16 weeks and 20 weeks)



Annex D - Percentiles for Valid to Decision (in weeks) for decisions made October to December 2025 and number of decisions in that time.

Procedure	25 th percentile	50 th percentile	75 th percentile	90 th percentile	100 th percentile	Number of decisions
Written reps	13 weeks	18 weeks	32 weeks	66 weeks	196 weeks	4,878
Hearing	18 weeks	24 weeks	33 weeks	62 weeks	129 weeks	158
Inquiry	20 weeks	25 weeks	34 weeks	63 weeks	161 weeks	93
All	13 weeks	19 weeks	32 weeks	66 weeks	196 weeks	5,129

Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

Annex E - Appeal Decisions, 50th and 90th percentiles of Valid to Decision (weeks), January 2024 to December 2025 - by procedure

Note: all measurements are in weeks

Wholly by written representations

Decision made:	50th percentile	90th percentile	Gap
Jan - Mar 24	29	54	25
Apr - Jun 24	26	48	21
Jul - Sep 24	26	45	19
Oct - Dec 24	29	53	25
Jan - Mar 25	27	54	27
Apr - Jun 25	25	61	36
Jul - Sep 25	20	66	46
Oct - Dec 25	18	66	48

Wholly or partially through Hearings

Decision made:	50th percentile	90th percentile	Gap
Jan - Mar 24	34	101	67
Apr - Jun 24	29	91	61
Jul - Sep 24	29	90	61
Oct - Dec 24	35	105	70
Jan - Mar 25	33	80	47
Apr - Jun 25	24	49	25
Jul - Sep 25	23	73	50
Oct - Dec 25	24	62	38

Wholly or partially through Inquiries

Decision made:	50th percentile	90th percentile	Gap
Jan - Mar 24	40	105	64
Apr - Jun 24	47	100	52
Jul - Sep 24	29	85	55
Oct - Dec 24	28	81	53
Jan - Mar 25	37	90	53
Apr - Jun 25	34	108	74
Jul - Sep 25	28	62	34
Oct - Dec 25	25	63	38

Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals