Planning Inspectorate

Ministerial Measures – Official Statistics in Development 19th November 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 April 2025 to June 2026.

Measure B covers the 12 months from October 2025 to September 2026.

For Measure C, there is no new data available.

Measure D covers the three months July to September 2026.

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%.

Note: We have removed Rights of Way cases from this measure as they have different target times. For more information see the BQR.

For appeals received during April to June 2026, 66.7% were valid first time[1]. 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 April 2025 to June 2026.

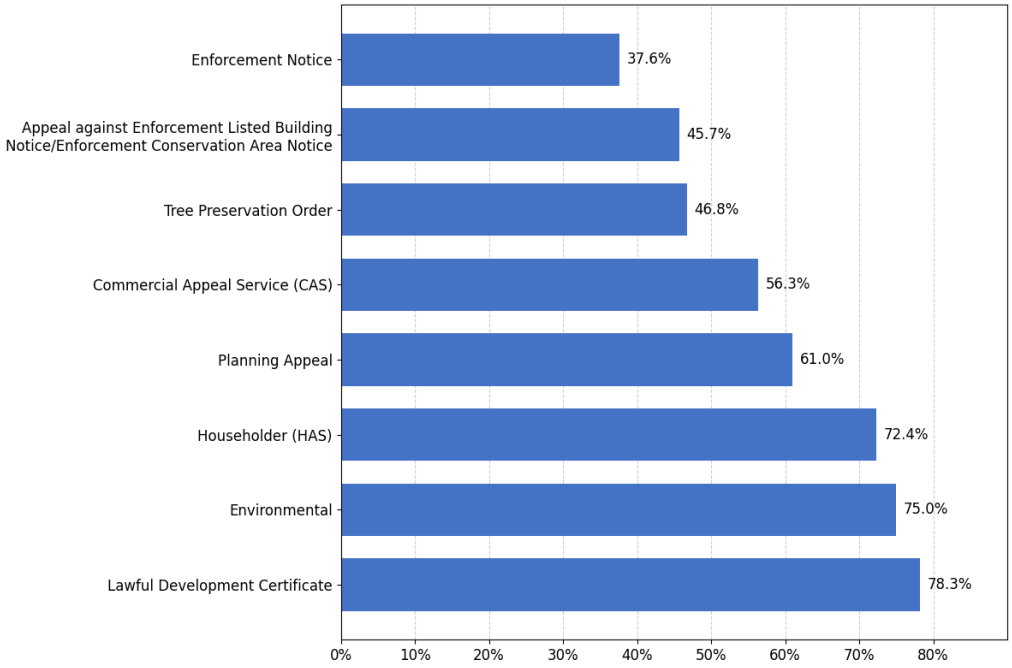
Note: There are 224 cases in this time period that have been removed due to an issue where cases have been duplicated

Appeals Received	Apr – Jun 2025	Jul – Sep 2025	Oct – Dec 2025	Jan– Mar 2026	Apr – Jun 2026
% Valid First Time	52.3%	53.3%	59.3%	65.2%	66.7%

Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

Figure 1 – Proportion of Appeals Valid on First Submission for Selected Casework Types, Cases Received July 2025 to June 2026.

Note: There are 223 cases in this time period that have been removed due to an issue where cases have been duplicated



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 is assessed as being valid on a later date.

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: Rights of Way cases are excluded from this measure as they have different target times. For more information see the BQR.

This section provides information on how long it has taken to make decisions in the last 12 months (in this case, October 2025 to September 2026).

Figure 2 below shows the proportion of cases decided:

- within 20 weeks[2];
- 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 September 2026 and is broken down by the procedure used to arrive at the decision. The data for this Figure is available at Annex B.

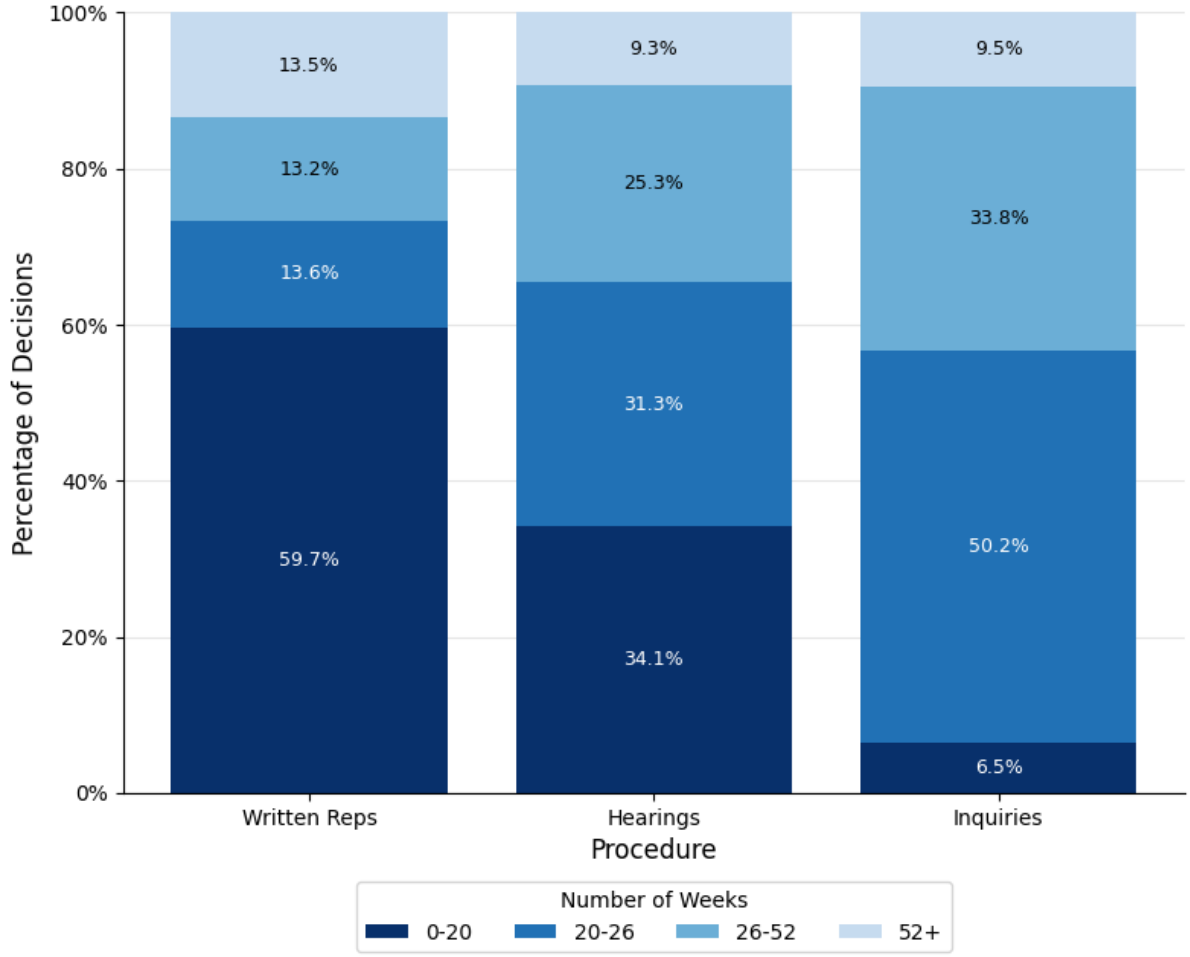
Figure 2 shows that a larger proportion (13.5%) of cases decided by written representations take more than a year than those decided by hearings (9.3%) or inquires (9.5%).

It also shows that a greater proportion of cases decided by written representations are decided within 20 weeks (59.7%) than those decided by hearings (34.1%) or inquiries (6.5%).

In Hearings, 65.4% are within their target range of below 26 weeks; for Inquiries this is 56.7%.

[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 October 2025 to September 2026.



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 September 2026; and a breakdown by the decision procedure.

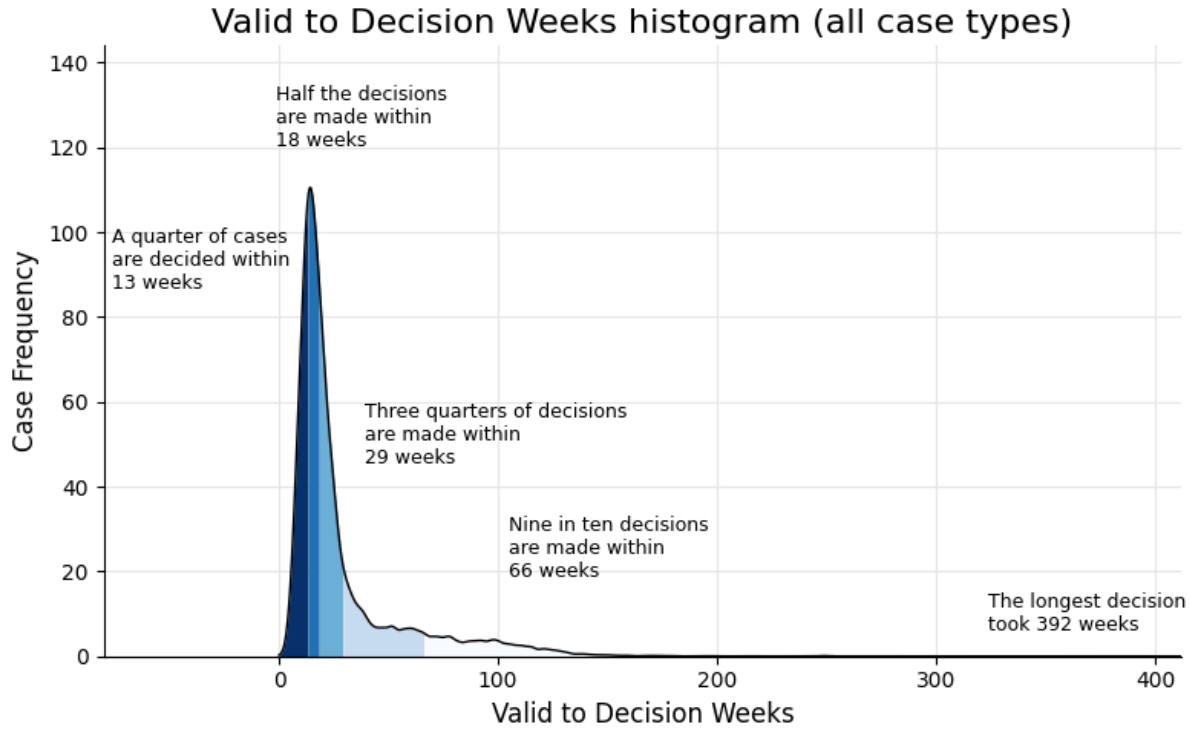
Figure 3 shows:

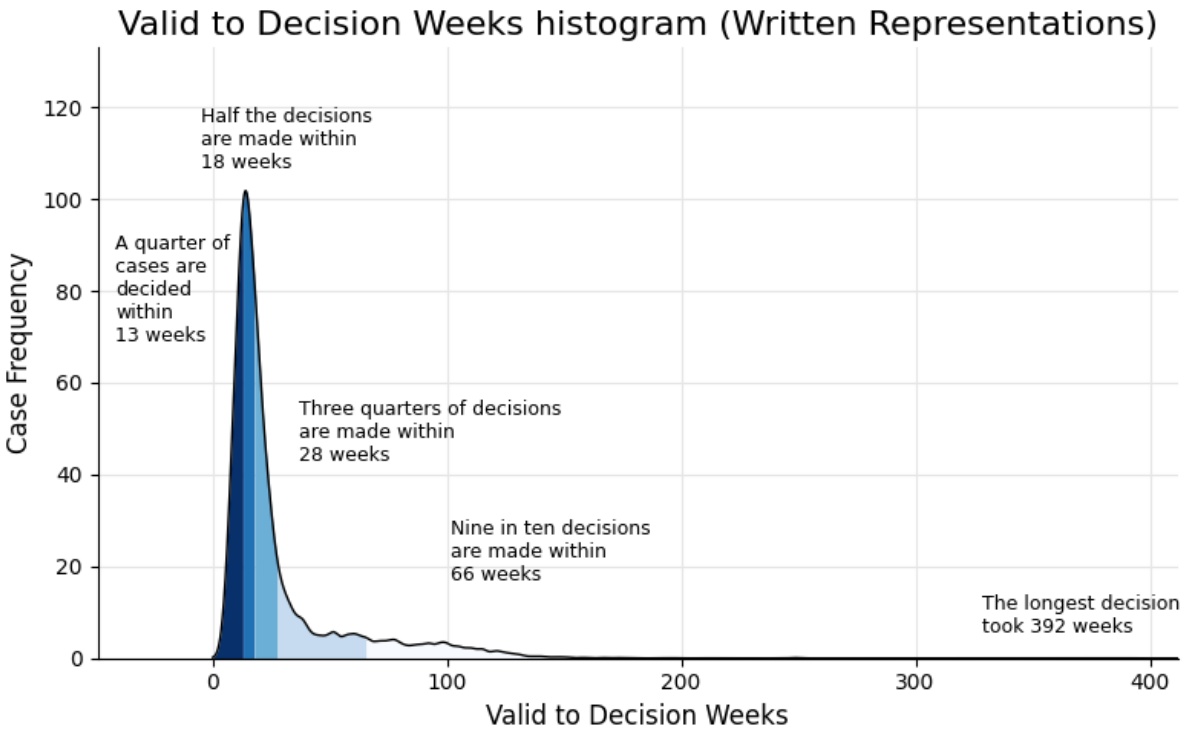
- The spread of time taken to decide for all cases, is similar to the spread for those decided wholly by written representations. This is because the large majority (16,694/17,972 which is 93%) of cases are decided this way.
- Three quarters of cases decided wholly by written representations are decided within 28 weeks. The corresponding time for three quarters of cases decided wholly or partly by hearings is 30 weeks and for those wholly or partly by inquiries is 35 weeks.
- Nine in ten cases decided wholly by written representations are decided within 66 weeks. The corresponding time for nine out ten cases decided wholly or partly by hearings is 48 weeks and for inquiries it is 49 weeks.

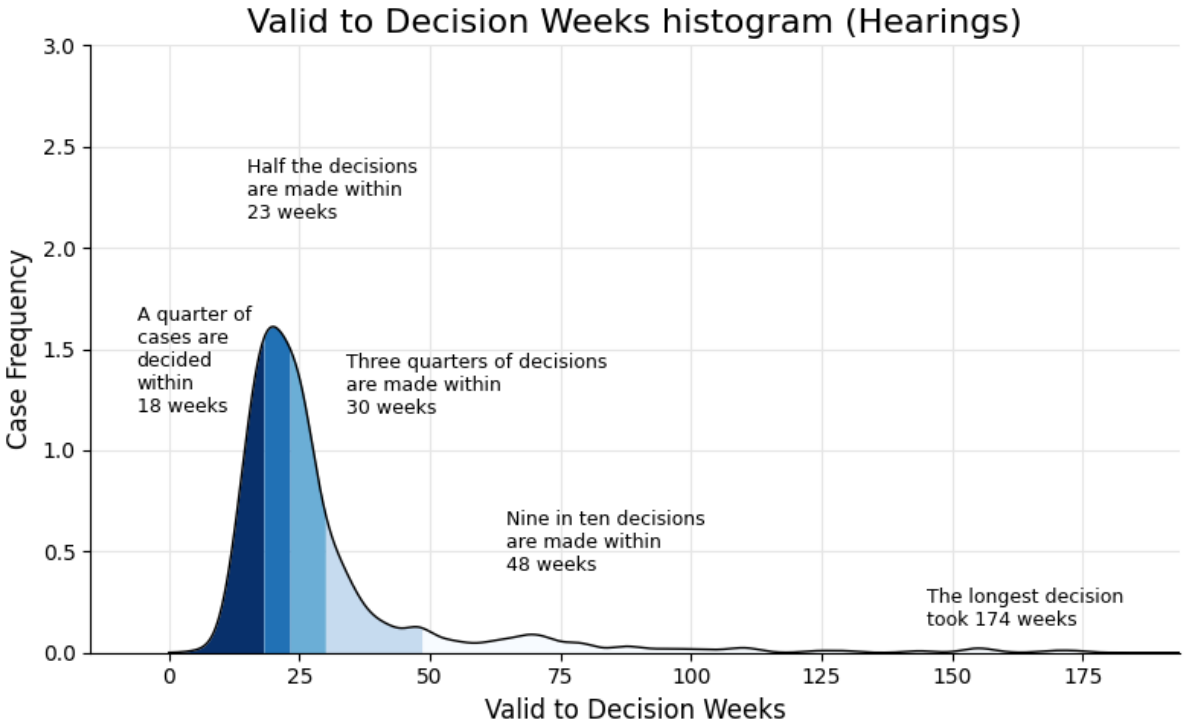
Figure 3 – Spread of Time Taken to Decide Cases (in weeks), for cases decided October 2025 to September 2026.

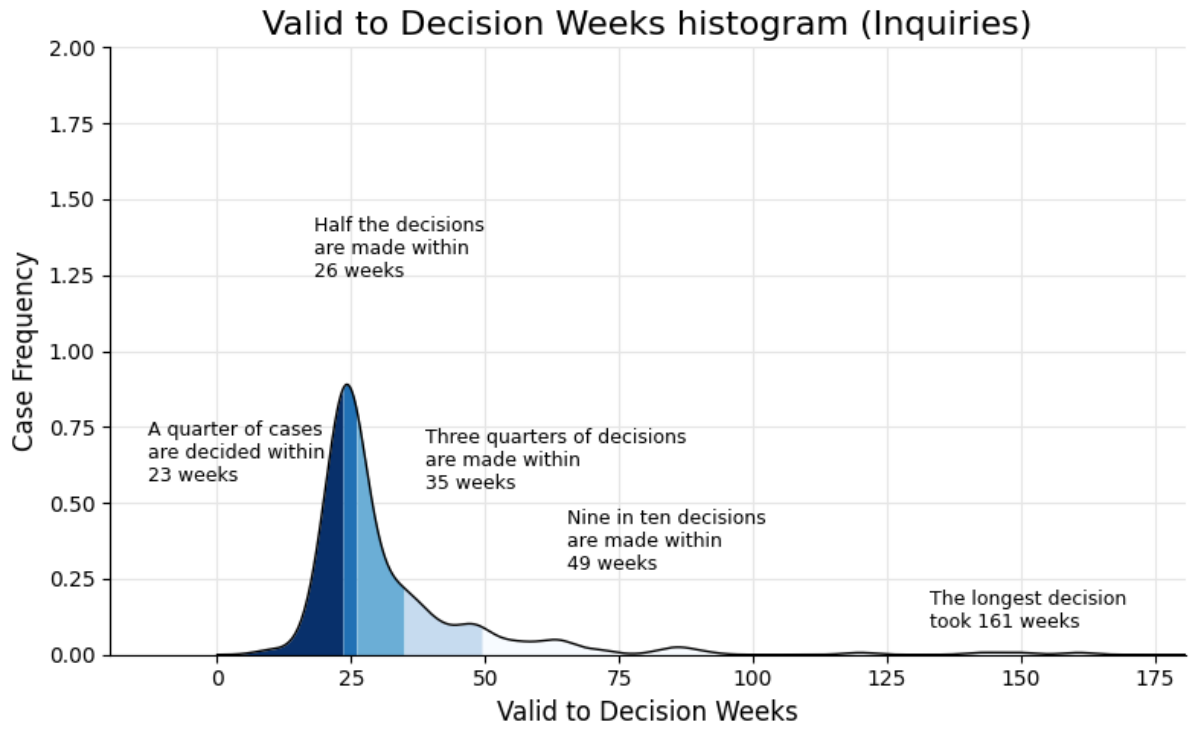
Note 1: The figure for “Half the decisions are made within” is the 50th percentile; this is the same as the median time to decide these cases, which is how this is presented in the quarterly Official Statistics publication.

Note 2: The curve smooths individual case times to show the overall pattern. Peaks indicate the weeks around which decisions were most concentrated; the height is not an exact case count. The annotations show the time by which each stated proportion of cases had been decided.




Valid to Decision Weeks histogram (Written Representations)
Half the decisions are made within 18 weeks
A quarter of cases are decided within 13 weeks
Three quarters of decisions are made within 28 weeks
Nine in ten decisions are made within 66 weeks
The longest decision took 392 weeks
Case Frequency
Valid to Decision Weeks
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
0
100
200
300
400


Valid to Decision Weeks histogram (Hearings)
Half the decisions are made within 23 weeks
A quarter of cases are decided within 18 weeks
Three quarters of decisions are made within 30 weeks
Nine in ten decisions are made within 48 weeks
The longest decision took 174 weeks
Case Frequency
Valid to Decision Weeks
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
0
25
50
75
100
125
150
175



Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

The Ministerial measure[3] requires information on how long appeal decisions take from valid receipt to decision[4], 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.

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 October 2025 to September 2026. Note that these match the timings given in text on the shapes in Figure 3 above.

[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 is assessed as being valid on a later date.

Table 2 - Percentiles for Valid to Decision (in weeks) for decisions made October 2025 to September 2026 – and number of decisions in that time.

Note: There are 425 appeal decisions in the last year that have no procedure type recorded (see Background Quality Report for more detail) These are excluded from the procedure totals in the table below. They have been added to the overall total.

Procedure	25th percentile	50th percentile	75th percentile	90th percentile	100th percentile	Number of decisions
Written representations	13 weeks	18 weeks	28 weeks	66 weeks	392 weeks	16,694
Hearing	18 weeks	23 weeks	30 weeks	49 weeks	174 weeks	578
Inquiry	23 weeks	26 weeks	35 weeks	49 weeks	161 weeks	275
All	13 weeks	18 weeks	29 weeks	66 weeks	392 weeks	17,972

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 July to September 2026.

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, October 2024 to September 2026.

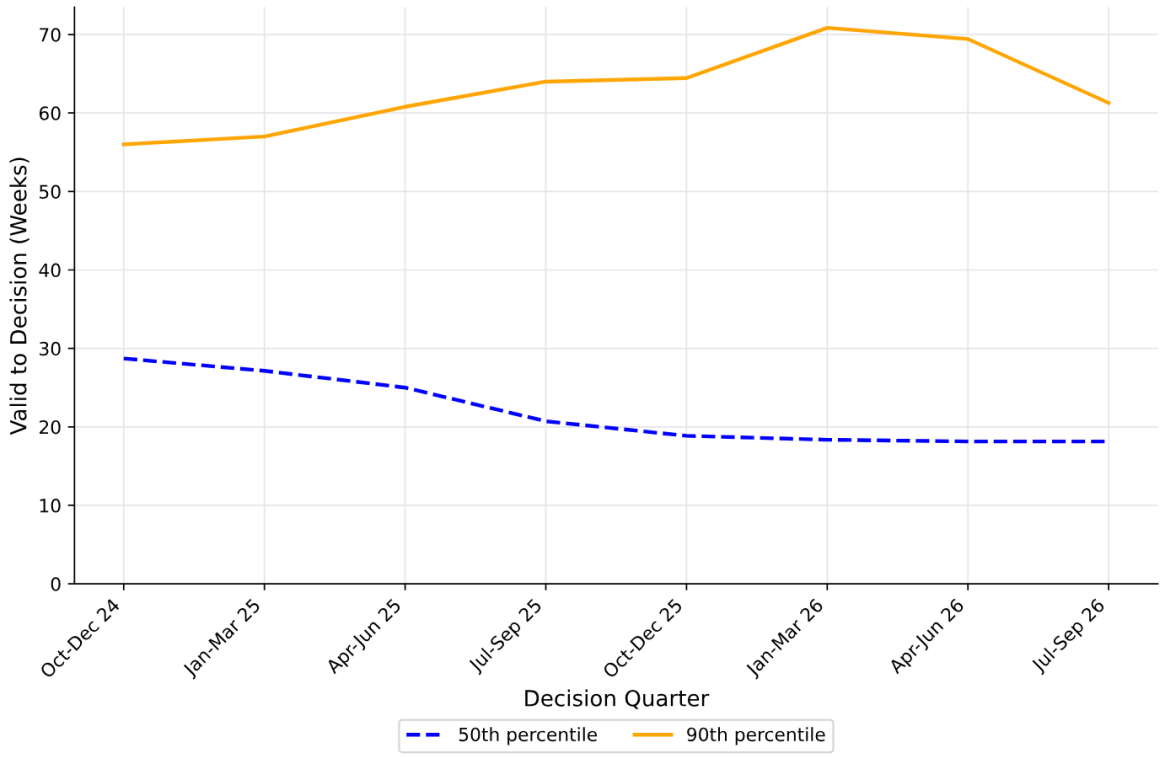


Table 3 - All Appeal Decisions, 50th and 90th percentiles of Valid to Decision (in weeks), October 2024 to September 2026.

Decision made:	50th percentile	90th percentile	Gap
Oct - Dec 24	29 Weeks	56 Weeks	27 Weeks
Jan - Mar 25	27 Weeks	57 Weeks	30 Weeks
Apr - Jun 25	25 Weeks	61 Weeks	36 Weeks
Jul - Sep 25	21 Weeks	64 Weeks	43 Weeks
Oct - Dec 25	19 Weeks	65 Weeks	46 Weeks
Jan - Mar 26	18 Weeks	71 Weeks	53 Weeks
Apr - Jun 26	18 Weeks	69 Weeks	51 Weeks
Jul - Sep 26	18 Weeks	61 Weeks	43 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.

B. Customer Satisfaction

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

No new valid customer satisfaction score is available for this reporting period. We are developing accurate measures to report on customer satisfaction in the future.

C. Number of Cases Quality Assured

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

During the three months July to September 2026, 1,046 appeal cases were quality assured. These are shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 - Number of appeal decisions quality assured, July to September 2026.

Number	Category	Explanation
176	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.
147	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.
723	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.
1,046	Total Appeal decisions	

Source: MiPINS

To put these totals in context, the 1,046 appeal decisions quality assured constitutes about a quarter (26%) of all decisions (4,099) 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, July to September 2026.

Number	Category	Explanation
8	Local Plans	All Plan examination reports and letters are quality assured as part of the examination process. 8 Plan examination final reports were issued in this quarter. Quality assurance activity for examinations yet to be completed also progressed during the period.
1	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	All CIL charging schedule examination reports and letters are quality assured as part of the examination process. One CIL examination final report was issued in this quarter. Quality assurance activity for examinations yet to be completed also progressed during the period.
7	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

Annex A - Proportion of Appeals Valid First Time for Selected Appeal Types, Appeals Received July 2025 to June 2026.

Note: There are 223 cases in this time period that have been removed due to an issue where cases have been duplicated

Appeal Type	Proportion valid on first submission	Number of Appeals Received
Enforcement Notice	37.6%	2543
Appeal against Enforcement Listed Building Notice/Enforcement Conservation Area Notice	45.7%	79
Tree Preservation Order	46.8%	476
Commercial Appeal Service (CAS)	56.3%	305
Planning Appeal	61.0%	9490
Householder (HAS)	72.4%	4022
Environmental	75.0%	41
Lawful Development Certificate	78.3%	970

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 October 2025 to September 2026.

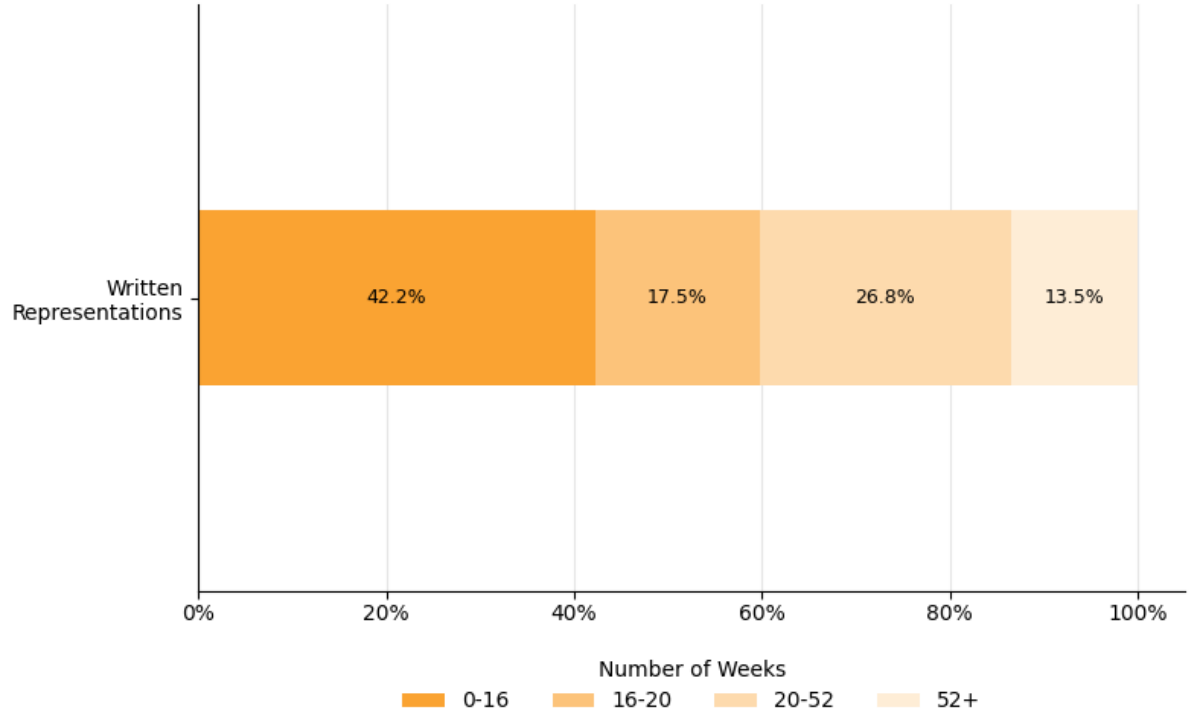
Note: Excludes Rights of Way cases, see BQR for more information

Procedure	Within 20 weeks	Within 26 weeks	Within 52 weeks	More than 52 weeks
Wholly Written Reps	59.7%	13.6%	13.2%	13.5%
Wholly or partly Hearings	34.1%	31.3%	25.3%	9.3%
Wholly or partly Inquiries	6.5%	50.2%	33.8%	9.5%

Annex C - Decisions made wholly through written representations – Decisions October 2025 to September 2026 - Weeks from Valid to Decision.

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

Note: Excludes Rights of Way cases, see BQR for more information



Annex D - Percentiles for Valid to Decision (in weeks) for decisions made July to September 2026 and number of decisions in that time.

Note: There are 88 appeal decisions in the last quarter that have no procedure type recorded (see Background Quality Report for more detail) These are excluded from the procedure totals in the table below. They have been added to the overall total.

Note: Excludes Rights of Way cases, see BQR for more information

Procedure	25th percentile	50th percentile	75th percentile	90th percentile	100th percentile	Number of decisions
Written reps	13 weeks	18 weeks	25 weeks	61 weeks	318 weeks	3,818
Hearing	18 weeks	24 weeks	32 weeks	50 weeks	157 weeks	137
Inquiry	23 weeks	26 weeks	31 weeks	49 weeks	86 weeks	56
All	13 weeks	18 weeks	26 weeks	61 weeks	318 weeks	4,099

Source: Horizon and Manage Appeals

Annex E - Appeal Decisions, 50th and 90th percentiles of Valid to Decision (weeks), October 2024 to September 2026 - by procedure.

Note: The gap is calculated from unrounded percentile values. As figures are subsequently rounded for presentation, the displayed values may not always reconcile exactly. All measurements are in weeks

Wholly by written representations

Decision made:	50th percentile	90th percentile	Gap
Oct - Dec 24	28	50	22
Jan - Mar 25	27	50	23
Apr - Jun 25	24	53	28
Jul - Sep 25	20	55	35
Oct - Dec 25	18	61	43
Jan - Mar 26	18	71	53
Apr - Jun 26	18	70	53
Jul - Sep 26	18	61	43

Wholly or partially through Hearings

Decision made:	50th percentile	90th percentile	Gap
Oct - Dec 24	34	104	70
Jan - Mar 25	31	80	49
Apr - Jun 25	24	43	19
Jul - Sep 25	23	96	73
Oct - Dec 25	24	63	39
Jan - Mar 26	25	48	23
Apr - Jun 26	21	32	11
Jul - Sep 26	24	50	27

Wholly or partially through Inquiries

Decision made:	50th percentile	90th percentile	Gap
Oct - Dec 24	28	72	44
Jan - Mar 25	34	75	41
Apr - Jun 25	33	104	70
Jul - Sep 25	27	54	28
Oct - Dec 25	26	57	31
Jan - Mar 26	26	46	20
Apr - Jun 26	26	49	23
Jul - Sep 26	26	49	23

Source: Horizon