

Planning

Processing time – the percentage of householder applications dealt with within two months

The indicator provides information on how long it takes each council to deal with planning applications by householders seeking approval to build extensions to their homes, or to make other alterations to their properties that need permission.

In dealing with planning applications, councils:

- take a number of steps to consult on and assess the application
- decide whether to approve the application
- notify the applicant of the decision.

People have to notify their neighbours that they have submitted an application and councils are usually required to carry out only limited consultations before a decision is reached. Many of the applications are straightforward and result in permission being granted. This indicator does not deal with applications by builders and developers.

Points to bear in mind

The time taken to deal with an application will be affected by:

- the extent to which councillors delegate responsibility for approving applications to staff (greater delegation will generally allow applications to be processed more quickly)
- whether there are any objections to the application (eg from neighbouring property owners)
- the proportion of cases where an applicant needs to submit amended plans before the planning officer feels able to recommend approval.

Some cases, particularly those in conservation areas or affecting listed buildings, may take longer to deal with because of the need for additional advertising and consultation. The proportion of such applications varies between councils.

Information provided by the Scottish Executive Planning Services Audit Unit indicates that in 2000/2001 the proportion of listed building and conservation area determinations expressed as a proportion of all determinations (ie in relation to non-householder as well as householder applications) was 10% or higher in Dundee, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Scottish Borders.

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Council	Rank in 01/02		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 99/00		
	1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	99/00	00/01	01/02	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	32	✗	74.2	69.0	67.6	✗		
Aberdeenshire	11		83.4	84.6	88.1	✓		
Angus	7	✓	91.9	92.6	89.3			
Argyll & Bute	6	✓	84.0	86.3	89.9	✓		
Clackmannanshire	1	✓	89.3	96.3	98.0	✓		
Dumfries & Galloway	25	✗	81.2	83.7	78.6			
Dundee City	18		82.5	84.4	81.6			
East Ayrshire	26	✗	87.3	71.1	76.9		✗	
East Dunbartonshire	21		68.3	78.0	80.4			✓
East Lothian	5	✓	88.6	94.9	90.9			
East Renfrewshire	23		78.9	83.0	79.6			
City of Edinburgh	30	✗	59.3	59.9	70.3			✓
Eilean Siar	12		90.3	91.7	88.0			
Falkirk	10		85.2	82.6	88.9			
Fife	9		81.2	81.6	89.0	✓		
Glasgow City	27	✗	72.7	83.7	76.6	✓		
Highland	20		83.0	81.9	80.7			
Inverclyde	14		92.1	92.5	86.5	✗		
Midlothian	17		77.7	76.7	81.7	✓		
Moray	2	✓	92.9	93.5	92.5			
North Ayrshire	24		73.4	77.9	79.5	✓		
North Lanarkshire	31	✗	84.5	81.2	68.1			✗
Orkney Islands	29	✗	87.2	91.7	73.7			✗
Perth & Kinross	4	✓	86.6	82.5	91.1	✓		
Renfrewshire	15		87.1	85.0	83.8			
Scottish Borders	16		75.0	76.3	83.0		✓	
Shetland Islands	3	✓	92.9	90.0	92.4			
South Ayrshire	19		78.6	72.1	80.8			
South Lanarkshire	8	✓	88.7	90.8	89.0			
Stirling	22		85.6	70.4	80.1	✗		
West Dunbartonshire	28	✗	89.1	80.5	76.3		✗	
West Lothian	13		93.5	90.7	87.9	✗		
			Scotland					
			80.2	80.2	81.7			

Ranked performance	99/00	00/01	01/02
Highest ranked performance	93.5	96.3	98.0
Upper quartile	88.8	90.8	89.0
Median	84.8	83.3	82.4
Lower quartile	78.8	78.0	79.3
Lowest ranked performance	59.3	59.9	67.6

Data features	Symbol	99/00	00/01	01/02
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing material change since 1999/00	
Improvement	
5-9%	8
10-14%	1
>15%	2
Decline	
5-9%	4
10-14%	2
>15%	2

Notes

An underlined PI measurement indicates unreliable data.

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The following councils were ranked 25th or below in 1999/2000:

Aberdeen City
East Dunbartonshire
City of Edinburgh
Glasgow City
Midlothian
North Ayrshire
Scottish Borders
South Ayrshire

The following councils did not make any material improvement in their performance by 2001/2002:

Aberdeen City
South Ayrshire

Processing time – the percentage of non-householder applications dealt with within two months

Points to bear in mind

In addition to all the issues discussed in the previous indicator relating to householder applications, the time taken to deal with non-householder applications will be extended where:

- there is a need to undertake an analysis of the anticipated impact on the environment or economy of the area arising from any application
- an application requires an agreement to be drawn up with the applicant, regulating the future use of the property or land
- the application is contrary to the approved local or structure plan, in which case additional procedures have to be completed

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Processing time – the percentage of non-householder applications dealt with within two months

Council	Rank in 01/02		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 99/00		
	1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	99/00	00/01	01/02	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	31	✗	43.0	44.9	35.9			✗
Aberdeenshire	15		49.5	49.9	52.6	✓		
Angus	11		67.5	66.3	57.4		✗	
Clackmannanshire	1	✓	65.6	82.7	77.3			✓
Dumfries & Galloway	20		53.2	48.1	49.3	✗		
Dundee City	21		50.7	48.2	48.3			
East Ayrshire	19		56.9	49.4	50.4		✗	
East Dunbartonshire	30	✗	31.5	47.9	36.1		✓	
East Lothian	12		46.2	63.4	56.3			✓
East Renfrewshire	25	✗	45.4	46.6	41.7	✗		
City of Edinburgh	22		34.1	33.3	46.5			✓
Eilean Siar	2	✓	71.4	74.4	71.8			
Falkirk	24		52.9	20.9	43.7			✗
Fife	6	✓	53.6	49.2	62.8			✓
Glasgow City	27	✗	51.0	55.0	40.8			✗
Highland	18		60.2	54.5	50.5			✗
Inverclyde	12		58.2	57.2	56.3			
Midlothian	29	✗	37.2	32.2	38.3			
Moray	5	✓	65.3	65.1	64.8			
North Ayrshire	23		35.1	38.9	45.9			✓
North Lanarkshire	28	✗	56.5	47.7	40.7			✗
Orkney Islands	4	✓	78.4	73.3	65.4			✗
Perth & Kinross	8	✓	57.9	55.3	60.1			
Renfrewshire	9		58.4	61.7	58.6			
Scottish Borders	14		47.4	44.7	54.0		✓	
Shetland Islands	7	✓	61.3	56.7	60.4			
South Ayrshire	16		46.1	43.7	52.0		✓	
South Lanarkshire	17		51.4	49.4	50.6			
Stirling	26	✗	44.4	41.5	41.4	✗		
West Dunbartonshire	10		54.8	61.2	57.7	✓		
West Lothian	3	✓	74.7	69.4	67.1		✗	
			Scotland					
			52.3	51.0	51.1			

Ranked performance	99/00	00/01	01/02
Highest ranked performance	78.4	82.7	77.3
Upper quartile	59.3	61.5	59.4
Median	53.2	49.4	52.0
Lower quartile	46.2	45.8	44.8
Lowest ranked performance	31.5	20.9	35.9

Data features	Symbol	99/00	00/01	01/02
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing material change since 1999/00	
Improvement	
5-9%	2
10-14%	3
>15%	5
Decline	
5-9%	3
10-14%	3
>15%	6

Unreliable/Unreported Data in 2001/02

Council	99/00	00/01	01/02
Argyll & Bute	58.3	58.4	<u>55.0</u>

Notes

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