

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 2002/2003 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 City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Glasgow City, Scottish Borders, South Ayrshire and Shetland Islands.

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Council	Rank in 02/03		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 00/01		
	1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	00/01	01/02	02/03	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	30	✗	69.0	67.6	75.4	✓		
Aberdeenshire	13		84.6	88.1	86.6			
Angus	16		92.6	89.3	84.6	✗		
Argyll & Bute	8	✓	86.2	89.9	88.9			
Clackmannanshire	2	✓	96.3	97.9	93.3			
Dumfries & Galloway	17		83.7	78.5	83.1			
Dundee City	22		84.4	81.6	82.3			
East Ayrshire	32	✗	71.1	76.9	71.0			
East Dunbartonshire	26	✗	78.0	80.4	79.4			
East Lothian	7	✓	94.9	90.9	89.2	✗		
East Renfrewshire	15		83.0	79.6	85.0			
City of Edinburgh	31	✗	59.9	70.3	74.9			✓
Eilean Siar	6	✓	91.7	88.0	90.2			
Falkirk	10		82.6	88.9	88.4	✓		
Fife	11		81.6	89.0	87.6	✓		
Glasgow City	19		83.7	76.6	82.7			
Highland	17		81.9	80.7	83.1			
Inverclyde	3	✓	92.5	86.6	93.2			
Midlothian	14		76.7	81.7	85.5		✓	
Moray	4	✓	93.5	92.5	92.0			
North Ayrshire	22		77.8	79.5	82.3	✓		
North Lanarkshire	27	✗	81.2	68.1	78.6			
Orkney Islands	28	✗	91.7	73.7	78.0		✗	
Perth & Kinross	20		82.5	91.1	82.6			
Renfrewshire	25	✗	85.0	83.8	79.7	✗		
Scottish Borders	24		76.4	83.0	82.0	✓		
Shetland Islands	9		90.0	92.5	88.6			
South Ayrshire	21		72.2	80.8	82.5		✓	
South Lanarkshire	5	✓	90.8	89.1	91.1			
Stirling	12		70.4	80.1	87.2			✓
West Dunbartonshire	29	✗	80.6	76.3	77.2			
West Lothian	1	✓	90.7	88.0	95.6	✓		
			Scotland					
			80.2	81.7	83.4			

Ranked performance	00/01	01/02	02/03
Highest ranked performance	96.3	97.9	95.6
Upper quartile	90.7	89.0	88.7
Median	83.4	82.4	83.9
Lower quartile	78.0	79.3	81.4
Lowest ranked performance	59.9	67.6	71.0

Data features	Symbol	00/01	01/02	02/03
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing significant change since 2000/01	
Improvement	
5-9%	6
10-14%	2
>15%	2
Decline	
5-9%	3
10-14%	1
>15%	-

Notes

An underlined PI measurement indicates unreliable data.

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

The following councils were ranked 25th or below in 2000/01:

Aberdeen City
East Ayrshire
City of Edinburgh
Midlothian
North Ayrshire
Scottish Borders
South Ayrshire
Stirling

The following councils did not make any material improvement in their performance by 2002/03:

East 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 02/03		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 00/01		
	1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	00/01	01/02	02/03	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	27	✗	44.9	35.9	45.6			
Aberdeenshire	14		49.9	52.6	54.7	✓		
Angus	8	✓	66.3	57.4	57.5		✗	
Argyll & Bute	10		58.4	<u>55.0</u>	56.2			
Clackmannanshire	1	✓	82.7	77.3	76.6	✗		
Dumfries & Galloway	20		48.1	49.3	51.1	✓		
Dundee City	28	✗	48.2	48.3	44.1	✗		
East Ayrshire	29	✗	49.4	50.4	43.3		✗	
East Dunbartonshire	32	✗	47.9	36.1	34.7			✗
East Lothian	9		63.4	56.3	57.4	✗		
East Renfrewshire	24		46.6	41.7	46.9			
City of Edinburgh	17		33.3	46.5	52.0			✓
Eilean Siar	2	✓	74.4	71.8	73.1			
Falkirk	25	✗	20.9	43.7	46.4			✓
Fife	4	✓	49.2	62.8	66.9			✓
Glasgow City	25	✗	55.0	40.8	46.4			✗
Highland	22		54.5	50.5	50.4	✗		
Inverclyde	3	✓	57.2	56.3	67.5			✓
Midlothian	23		32.2	38.3	48.3			✓
Moray	7	✓	65.1	64.8	63.9			
North Ayrshire	30	✗	38.9	45.9	39.7			
North Lanarkshire	31	✗	47.7	40.7	38.9			✗
Orkney Islands	6	✓	73.3	65.4	66.2	✗		
Perth & Kinross	15		55.3	60.1	53.4			
Renfrewshire	19		61.7	58.6	51.4			✗
Scottish Borders	16		44.7	54.0	52.7			✓
Shetland Islands	11		56.7	60.4	55.9			
South Ayrshire	18		43.7	52.0	51.8			✓
South Lanarkshire	12		49.4	50.6	54.9		✓	
Stirling	21		41.5	41.4	50.7			✓
West Dunbartonshire	13		61.2	57.7	54.8		✗	
West Lothian	4	✓	69.4	67.1	66.9			
			Scotland					
			51.0	51.1	53.0			

Ranked performance	00/01	01/02	02/03
Highest ranked performance	82.7	77.3	76.6
Upper quartile	61.3	59.0	57.4
Median	49.7	52.3	52.4
Lower quartile	46.2	45.4	46.8
Lowest ranked performance	20.9	35.9	34.7

Data features	Symbol	00/01	01/02	02/03
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing significant change since 2000/01	
Improvement	
5-9%	2
10-14%	1
>15%	8
Decline	
5-9%	5
10-14%	3
>15%	4

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