

Development services

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

In its revised National Planning Policy Guideline 1 (November 2000), The Scottish Executive identified a series of targets for councils in dealing with planning applications. The target levels established include:

Type of Application	2 months	3 months
Householder applications	90%	95%

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.

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Council	Rank in 05/06		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 03/04		
	1-32	✓ 1-8 ✗ 25-32	03/04	04/05	05/06	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	13		87.3	83.4	85.3			
Aberdeenshire	23		77.6	84.6	75.6			
Angus	2	✓	85.8	90.7	92.6	✓		
Argyll & Bute	7	✓	87.7	88.9	88.6			
Clackmannanshire	3	✓	95.0	96.4	91.8			
Dumfries & Galloway	9		75.1	78.8	87.6			✓
Dundee City	12		81.2	77.0	85.7	✓		
East Ayrshire	25	✗	72.9	75.6	70.1			
East Dunbartonshire	30	✗	82.2	74.8	60.3			✗
East Lothian	4	✓	88.4	86.6	91.2			
East Renfrewshire	18		85.4	82.6	77.8	✗		
City of Edinburgh	19		66.9	74.0	77.0			✓
Eilean Siar	21		<u>86.6</u>	66.4	75.8			
Falkirk	17		91.9	76.6	81.4		✗	
Fife	29	✗	85.7	79.1	64.0			✗
Glasgow City	11		55.3	66.7	87.1			✓
Highland	20		84.8	76.3	76.8	✗		
Inverclyde	6	✓	90.8	85.8	89.0			
Midlothian	7	✓	79.0	85.5	88.6		✓	
Moray	14		92.5	89.2	84.5	✗		
North Ayrshire	10		81.6	87.2	87.5	✓		
North Lanarkshire	21		83.1	87.3	75.8	✗		
Orkney Islands	31	✗	<u>82.3</u>	55.2	36.8			
Perth & Kinross	27	✗	74.3	56.3	68.3	✗		
Renfrewshire	24		75.2	70.0	73.6			
Scottish Borders	28	✗	78.7	69.2	65.1			✗
South Ayrshire	26	✗	81.2	72.3	68.4			✗
South Lanarkshire	16		87.9	84.4	82.2	✗		
Stirling	15		89.3	90.2	83.4	✗		
West Dunbartonshire	5	✓	81.3	84.8	90.8		✓	
West Lothian	1	✓	90.4	94.1	94.3			
			Scotland					
			80.6	78.3	78.3			

Ranked performance	03/04	04/05	05/06
Highest ranked performance	95.0	96.4	94.3
Upper quartile	87.8	86.9	88.1
Median	83.1	82.6	82.2
Lower quartile	78.9	74.4	74.6
Lowest ranked performance	55.3	55.2	36.8

Data features	Symbol	03/04	04/05	05/06
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing significant change since 2003/04	
Improvement	
5-9%	3
10-14%	2
>15%	3
Decline	
5-9%	7
10-14%	1
>15%	4

Unreliable/Unreported Data in 2005/06

Council	03/04	04/05	05/06
Shetland Islands	88.7	77.4	<u>71.8</u>

Reason for Unreliable Determination in 2005/06

Shetland Islands - An internal examination of the information by Planning staff had revealed a number of planning applications that had not been picked up via the computer reporting mechanism used to develop the PI submission data. The system is currently under review.

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 2003/04:

Dumfries & Galloway
East Ayrshire
City of Edinburgh
Glasgow City
Perth & Kinross
Renfrewshire

The following councils did not make any material improvement in their performance by 2005/06:

East Ayrshire
Perth & Kinross
Renfrewshire

Development services

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

The indicator provides information on how long it takes each council to deal with all planning applications including those from householders, builders and developers..

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.

Points to bear in mind

In its revised National Planning Policy Guideline 1 (November 2000), The Scottish Executive identified a series of targets for councils in dealing with planning applications. The target levels established include:

Type of Application	2 months	3 months
All applications	80%	85%

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 2004/2005 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 and Stirling.

Development services

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

Council	Rank in 05/06		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 03/04		
	1-32	✓ 1-8 ✗ 25-32	03/04	04/05	05/06	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	7	✓	75.0	73.2	71.6			
Aberdeenshire	23		58.8	65.5	56.2			
Angus	12		68.6	69.1	65.7			
Argyll & Bute	14		66.6	64.4	64.4			
Clackmannanshire	2	✓	84.6	82.5	78.6	✗		
Dumfries & Galloway	19		57.0	55.9	61.4	✓		
Dundee City	18		61.4	62.4	61.6			
East Ayrshire	28	✗	55.3	57.7	49.5		✗	
East Dunbartonshire	27	✗	77.0	70.4	54.3			✗
East Lothian	4	✓	72.9	72.3	72.7			
East Renfrewshire	10		78.2	77.1	69.4		✗	
City of Edinburgh	16		54.7	61.8	62.6		✓	
Eilean Siar	11		<u>73.4</u>	67.4	65.9			
Falkirk	21		73.4	57.1	60.5			✗
Fife	29	✗	71.6	64.3	48.2			✗
Glasgow City	15		44.3	54.8	64.2			✓
Highland	24		59.1	54.4	55.9	✗		
Inverclyde	3	✓	73.2	74.3	74.0			
Midlothian	8	✓	66.5	68.6	70.7	✓		
Moray	26	✗	73.9	60.6	55.7			✗
North Ayrshire	9		64.6	68.1	69.5	✓		
North Lanarkshire	20		67.9	72.1	61.0		✗	
Orkney Islands	31	✗	<u>75.4</u>	48.0	35.6			
Perth & Kinross	22		59.8	45.9	56.7	✗		
Renfrewshire	17		63.5	63.2	62.4			
Scottish Borders	30	✗	62.5	53.4	47.9			✗
South Ayrshire	24		66.7	59.6	55.9			✗
South Lanarkshire	13		71.7	68.4	64.5		✗	
Stirling	6	✓	71.2	72.5	71.9			
West Dunbartonshire	5	✓	71.0	63.5	72.1			
West Lothian	1	✓	78.5	85.4	83.2	✓		
			Scotland					
			64.2	62.2	60.9			

Ranked performance	03/04	04/05	05/06
Highest ranked performance	84.6	85.4	83.2
Upper quartile	73.4	71.3	70.1
Median	68.6	64.4	62.6
Lower quartile	62.0	58.7	56.1
Lowest ranked performance	44.3	45.9	35.6

Data features	Symbol	03/04	04/05	05/06
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing significant change since 2003/04	
Improvement	
5-9%	4
10-14%	1
>15%	1
Decline	
5-9%	3
10-14%	4
>15%	6

Unreliable/Unreported Data in 2005/06

Council	03/04	04/05	05/06
Shetland Islands	69.5	58.3	<u>67.7</u>

Reason for Unreliable Determination in 2005/06

Shetland Islands - An internal examination of the information by Planning staff had revealed a number of planning applications that had not been picked up via the computer reporting mechanism used to develop the PI submission data. The system is currently under review.

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The following councils did not make any material improvement in their performance by 2005/06:

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