

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 06/07		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 04/05		
	1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	04/05	05/06	06/07	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	16		83.4	85.3	79.9			
Aberdeenshire	26	✗	84.6	75.6	71.3			✗
Angus	6	✓	90.7	92.6	92.4			
Argyll & Bute	14		88.9	88.6	83.4	✗		
Clackmannanshire	2	✓	96.4	91.8	94.3			
Dumfries & Galloway	11		78.8	87.6	86.9		✓	
Dundee City	17		77.0	85.7	79.8			
East Ayrshire	19		75.6	70.1	79.2			
East Dunbartonshire	32	✗	74.8	60.3	63.0			✗
East Lothian	10		86.6	91.2	87.8			
East Renfrewshire	21		82.6	77.8	77.6	✗		
City of Edinburgh	20		74.0	77.0	79.1	✓		
Eilean Siar	15		66.4	75.8	81.3			✓
Falkirk	12		76.6	81.4	85.1		✓	
Fife	31	✗	79.1	64.0	65.9			✗
Glasgow City	5	✓	66.7	87.1	92.7			✓
Highland	18		76.3	76.8	79.6			
Inverclyde	7	✓	85.8	89.0	91.2	✓		
Midlothian	24		85.5	88.6	74.3		✗	
Moray	23		89.2	84.5	74.5			✗
North Ayrshire	9		87.2	87.5	88.0			
North Lanarkshire	8	✓	87.3	75.8	88.1			
Orkney Islands	28	✗	55.2	36.8	69.8			✓
Perth & Kinross	30	✗	56.3	68.3	68.8			✓
Renfrewshire	22		70.0	73.6	75.6	✓		
Scottish Borders	29	✗	69.2	65.1	69.6			
Shetland Islands	27	✗	77.4	<u>71.8</u>	70.9	✗		
South Ayrshire	25	✗	72.3	68.4	71.5			
South Lanarkshire	3	✓	84.4	82.2	93.4		✓	
Stirling	13		90.2	83.4	84.0	✗		
West Dunbartonshire	4	✓	84.8	90.8	93.0	✓		
West Lothian	1	✓	94.1	94.3	97.8			
			Scotland					
			79.3	78.3	79.8			

Ranked performance	04/05	05/06	06/07
Highest ranked performance	96.4	94.3	97.8
Upper quartile	86.8	87.9	88.0
Median	80.9	81.8	79.9
Lower quartile	74.6	73.2	73.6
Lowest ranked performance	55.2	36.8	63.0

Data features	Symbol	04/05	05/06	06/07
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing significant change since 2004/05	
Improvement	
5-9%	4
10-14%	3
>15%	4
Decline	
5-9%	4
10-14%	1
>15%	4

Notes

An underlined PI measurement indicates unreliable data.

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The following councils were ranked 25th or below in 2004/05:

City of Edinburgh
Eilean Siar
Glasgow City
Orkney Islands
Perth & Kinross
Renfrewshire
Scottish Borders
South Ayrshire

The following councils did not make any material improvement in their performance by 2006/07:

Scottish Borders
South Ayrshire

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.

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

Council	Rank in 06/07		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse X since 04/05		
	1-32	✓1-8 X 25-32	04/05	05/06	06/07	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	13		73.2	71.6	65.8		X	
Aberdeenshire	26	X	65.5	56.2	51.7			X
Angus	9		69.1	65.7	69.3			
Argyll & Bute	17		64.4	64.4	62.6			
Clackmannanshire	1	✓	82.5	78.6	85.9			
Dumfries & Galloway	19		55.9	61.4	60.8	✓		
Dundee City	22		62.4	61.6	58.5	X		
East Ayrshire	25	X	57.7	49.5	55.4			
East Dunbartonshire	21		70.4	54.3	59.9		X	
East Lothian	10		72.3	72.7	68.8			
East Renfrewshire	8	✓	77.1	69.4	71.8	X		
City of Edinburgh	16		61.8	62.6	63.7			
Eilean Siar	14		67.4	65.9	65.3			
Falkirk	15		57.1	60.5	64.5		✓	
Fife	28	X	64.3	48.2	49.5			X
Glasgow City	11		54.8	64.2	67.7			✓
Highland	23		54.4	55.9	57.2	✓		
Inverclyde	3	✓	74.3	74.0	78.6	✓		
Midlothian	18		68.6	70.7	60.9		X	
Moray	29	X	60.6	55.7	47.5			X
North Ayrshire	7	✓	68.1	69.5	75.2		✓	
North Lanarkshire	6	✓	72.1	61.0	76.0	✓		
Orkney Islands	31	X	48.0	35.6	45.6	X		
Perth & Kinross	27	X	45.9	56.7	50.2	✓		
Renfrewshire	20		63.2	62.4	60.3			
Scottish Borders	30	X	53.4	47.9	46.7		X	
Shetland Islands	32	X	58.3	<u>67.7</u>	39.5			X
South Ayrshire	24		59.6	55.9	56.2	X		
South Lanarkshire	5	✓	68.4	64.5	76.4		✓	
Stirling	12		72.5	71.9	66.8	X		
West Dunbartonshire	2	✓	63.5	72.1	84.6			✓
West Lothian	4	✓	85.4	83.2	78.1	X		
			Scotland					
			63.0	60.9	61.4			

Ranked performance	04/05	05/06	06/07
Highest ranked performance	85.4	83.2	85.9
Upper quartile	70.8	69.8	69.9
Median	64.4	63.4	63.2
Lower quartile	58.2	56.1	56.0
Lowest ranked performance	45.9	35.6	39.5

Data features	Symbol	04/05	05/06	06/07
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing significant change since 2004/05	
Improvement	
5-9%	5
10-14%	3
>15%	2
Decline	
5-9%	6
10-14%	4
>15%	4

Notes

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The following councils were ranked 25th or below in 2004/05:

Dumfries & Galloway
East Ayrshire
Falkirk
Glasgow City
Highland
Orkney Islands
Perth & Kinross
Scottish Borders

The following councils did not make any material improvement in their performance by 2006/07:

East Ayrshire
Orkney Islands
Scottish Borders