

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 07/08		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 05/06		
	1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	05/06	06/07	07/08	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	19		85.3	79.9	77.8	✗		
Aberdeenshire	30	✗	75.6	71.3	52.5			✗
Angus	14		92.6	92.4	82.0		✗	
Argyll & Bute	18		88.6	83.4	78.7		✗	
Clackmannanshire	1	✓	91.8	94.3	94.8			
Dumfries & Galloway	15		87.6	86.9	81.4	✗		
Dundee City	21		85.7	79.8	74.4		✗	
East Ayrshire	13		70.1	79.2	82.2			✓
East Dunbartonshire	31	✗	60.3	63.0	50.4			✗
East Lothian	10		91.2	87.8	84.5	✗		
East Renfrewshire	23		77.8	77.6	73.7	✗		
City of Edinburgh	8	✓	77.0	79.1	85.2		✓	
Eilean Siar	28	✗	75.8	81.3	67.9		✗	
Falkirk	12		81.4	85.1	82.9			
Fife	24		64.0	65.9	71.9		✓	
Glasgow City	25	✗	87.1	92.7	71.8			✗
Highland	17		76.8	79.6	79.6			
Inverclyde	9		89.0	91.2	84.7			
Midlothian	7	✓	88.6	74.3	86.9			
Moray	22		84.5	74.5	73.8		✗	
North Ayrshire	4	✓	87.5	88.0	91.5			
North Lanarkshire	6	✓	75.8	88.1	87.8			✓
Orkney Islands	11		36.8	69.8	84.0			✓
Perth & Kinross	26	✗	68.3	68.8	69.7			
Renfrewshire	20		73.6	75.6	77.7	✓		
Scottish Borders	27	✗	65.1	69.6	69.4	✓		
Shetland Islands	32	✗	<u>71.8</u>	70.9	24.2			
South Ayrshire	29	✗	68.4	71.5	60.4		✗	
South Lanarkshire	5	✓	82.2	93.4	89.9	✓		
Stirling	16		83.4	84.0	79.8			
West Dunbartonshire	3	✓	90.8	93.0	91.9			
West Lothian	2	✓	94.3	97.8	94.3			
			Scotland					
			78.3	79.8	76.3			

Ranked performance	05/06	06/07	07/08
Highest ranked performance	94.3	97.8	94.8
Upper quartile	87.9	88.0	84.8
Median	81.8	79.9	79.7
Lower quartile	73.2	73.6	71.9
Lowest ranked performance	36.8	63.0	24.2

Data features	Symbol	05/06	06/07	07/08
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing significant change since 2005/06	
Improvement	
5-9%	3
10-14%	2
>15%	3
Decline	
5-9%	4
10-14%	6
>15%	3

Notes

An underlined PI measurement indicates unreliable data.

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The following councils were ranked 25th or below in 2005/06:

East Ayrshire
East Dunbartonshire
Fife
Orkney Islands
Perth & Kinross
Scottish Borders
South Ayrshire

The following councils did not make any material improvement in their performance by 2007/08:

East Dunbartonshire
Perth & Kinross
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 07/08		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 05/06		
	1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	05/06	06/07	07/08	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Aberdeen City	15		71.6	65.8	63.9		X	
Aberdeenshire	31	X	56.2	51.7	37.3			X
Angus	16		65.7	69.3	63.1			
Argyll & Bute	20		64.4	62.6	58.7	X		
Clackmannanshire	1	✓	78.6	85.9	86.3	✓		
Dumfries & Galloway	19		61.4	60.8	60.5			
Dundee City	22		61.6	58.5	55.6	X		
East Ayrshire	18		49.5	55.4	61.2			✓
East Dunbartonshire	26	X	54.3	59.9	50.5	X		
East Lothian	14		72.7	68.8	64.5		X	
East Renfrewshire	12		69.4	71.8	66.9			
City of Edinburgh	9		62.6	63.7	68.0	✓		
Eilean Siar	23		65.9	65.3	54.5			X
Falkirk	10		60.5	64.5	67.1		✓	
Fife	25	X	48.2	49.5	53.7		✓	
Glasgow City	24		64.2	67.7	54.2			X
Highland	21		55.9	57.2	57.2			
Inverclyde	5	✓	74.0	78.6	74.5			
Midlothian	8	✓	70.7	60.9	69.5			
Moray	29	X	55.7	47.5	46.6			X
North Ayrshire	4	✓	69.5	75.2	77.1		✓	
North Lanarkshire	6	✓	61.0	76.0	74.1			✓
Orkney Islands	13		35.6	45.6	65.5			✓
Perth & Kinross	27	X	56.7	50.2	49.0		X	
Renfrewshire	17		62.4	60.3	61.5			
Scottish Borders	30	X	47.9	46.7	46.2			
Shetland Islands	32	X	<u>67.7</u>	39.5	23.7			
South Ayrshire	28	X	55.9	56.2	47.6		X	
South Lanarkshire	7	✓	64.5	76.4	72.4		✓	
Stirling	11		71.9	66.8	67.0	X		
West Dunbartonshire	2	✓	72.1	84.6	81.2		✓	
West Lothian	3	✓	83.2	78.1	79.0	X		
			Scotland					
			60.9	61.4	58.7			

Ranked performance	05/06	06/07	07/08
Highest ranked performance	83.2	85.9	86.3
Upper quartile	69.8	69.9	68.4
Median	63.4	63.2	62.3
Lower quartile	56.1	56.0	54.1
Lowest ranked performance	35.6	39.5	23.7

Data features	Symbol	05/06	06/07	07/08
PI not applicable	(-)	0	0	0
No service	(NS)	0	0	0

Count of councils showing significant change since 2005/06	
Improvement	
5-9%	2
10-14%	5
>15%	3
Decline	
5-9%	5
10-14%	4
>15%	4

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