



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Planning Applications in England: January to March 2016

Between January to March 2016, district level planning authorities in England:

- received 119,700 applications for planning permission, down one per cent on the corresponding quarter of 2015;
- granted 86,200 decisions, up three per cent from the same quarter in 2015; this is equivalent to 88 per cent of decisions, up one percentage point on the same quarter of 2015;
- decided 82 per cent of major applications within 13 weeks or the agreed time, up from 77 per cent a year earlier; and
- granted 11,300 residential applications, down one per cent on a year earlier.

In the year ending March 2016, district level planning authorities:

- granted 372,600 decisions, up three per cent from the figure for the year ending March 2015; and
- granted 46,700 decisions on residential developments: 5,900 for major developments and 40,800 for minors.

9,000 applications for prior approval for permitted development rights were received during January to March 2016, up six per cent from the same quarter of 2015;

7,400 of those applications were approved without having to go through the full planning process, up seven per cent on a year earlier;

The number of applications received for prior approval was 41,000 in 2015/16 and 36,400 in 2014/15, up from 15,700 in 2013/14 and 7,300 in 2012/13.



Planning *Statistical Release*

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Introduction

This Statistical Release presents National Statistics on authorities that undertake district and county level planning activities in England. It covers information on planning applications received and decided, including decisions on applications for residential developments (dwellings) and enforcement activities. Data are provided at national and local authority level and are based on information reported for the relevant quarters as at 13 May 2016 for the PS1/2 return ('District matters') and the CPS1/2 return ('County matters'). The Definitions section provides details on the main terms used within this release and associated live tables.

Authorities undertaking district level planning

A summary of the trends in applications, decisions and permissions granted is provided in **Table 1** and **Figure 1**. The number of applications, decisions and permissions at district level in this publication is given to the nearest hundred; more detailed figures are available in the accompanying Live Tables.

Planning applications

During January to March 2016, authorities undertaking district level planning in England received 119,700 applications for planning permission, down one per cent on the corresponding quarter in 2015. In the year ending March 2016, authorities received 474,400 planning applications, up less than one per cent from 473,800 in the year ending March 2015. (**Table P120/P132 and Table 1**)

Planning decisions

Authorities reported 98,400 decisions on planning applications in January to March 2016, an increase of three per cent on 95,500 decisions in the same quarter of the previous year. In the year ending March 2016, authorities decided 424,700 planning applications, an increase of four per cent compared to the year ending March 2015. (**Table P120 and Table 1**)

Applications granted

During January to March 2016, authorities granted 86,200 permissions, up three per cent from the same quarter in 2015. Authorities granted 88 per cent of all decisions, up one percentage point on March quarter 2015. Overall, 83 per cent of major and minor decisions were granted. The percentage of decisions granted varied widely between local planning authorities, ranging from 30 to 100 per cent for major developments, 54 to 100 per cent for minor developments and 45 to 100 per cent for other developments. (**Tables P120/P131**)

Over the 12 months to March 2016, 372,600 applications were granted, up three per cent from the year to March 2015. Authorities granted 88 per cent of all decisions in the year to March 2016, unchanged from the year to March 2015. (**Table P122/P132 and Table 1**)

Historical context

Figure 1 and **Table 1** show that, since 2005, the numbers of applications received, decisions made and applications granted have each followed a similar pattern. As well as the usual within-year pattern of peaks in the Summer and troughs in the Winter, there was a clear downward trend during the 2008 economic downturn, with figures remaining broadly level since then. Figure 1

shows that the numbers of applications received in recent years are some way below the peak of 689,000 in 2004/05.

Figure 1: Number of planning applications received, decided and granted by district authorities
 England, quarter ending June 2004 to quarter ending March 2016

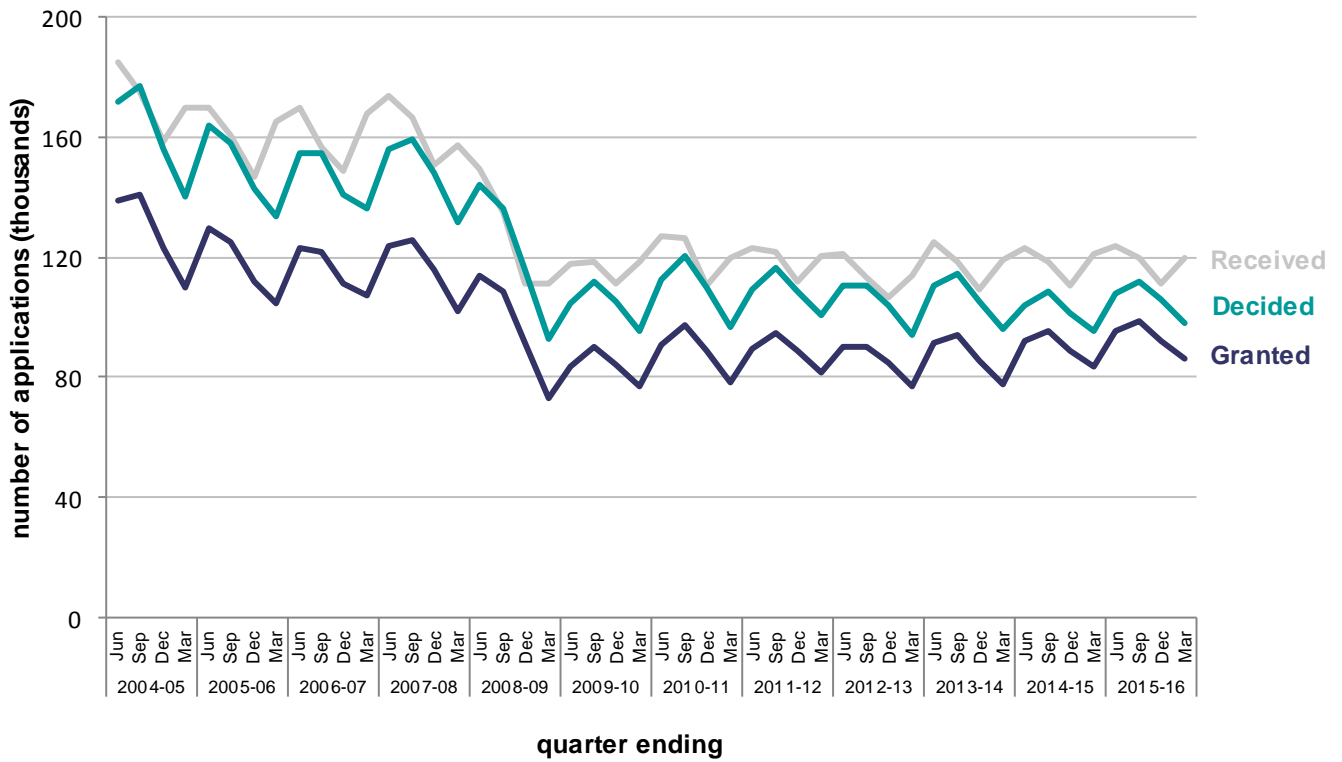


Table 1: District level planning applications received, decided and granted

England, quarter ending June 2004 to quarter ending March 2016

| Financial Year | Quarter ending | Number / Percentage | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| | | Received | | Decided ¹ | | Granted ² | |
| | | Number ('000s) | % change on corresponding quarter last year | Number ('000s) | % change on corresponding quarter last year | Number ('000s) | % change on corresponding quarter last year |
| 2004-05 | Jun | 185 | 5% | 172 | 6% | 139 | 3% |
| | Sep | 175 | 5% | 177 | 6% | 141 | 4% |
| | Dec | 159 | 4% | 156 | 5% | 123 | 3% |
| | Mar | 170 | -4% | 140 | -3% | 110 | -6% |
| 2005-06 | Jun | 170 | -8% | 164 | -5% | 130 | -6% |
| | Sep | 161 | -8% | 158 | -11% | 125 | -11% |
| | Dec | 147 | -8% | 143 | -8% | 112 | -9% |
| | Mar | 165 | -3% | 134 | -4% | 105 | -5% |
| 2006-07 | Jun | 170 | 0% | 155 | -5% | 123 | -5% |
| | Sep | 157 | -2% | 155 | -2% | 122 | -2% |
| | Dec | 149 | 1% | 141 | -1% | 111 | -1% |
| | Mar | 168 | 2% | 136 | 1% | 107 | 3% |
| 2007-08 | Jun | 174 | 2% | 156 | 1% | 124 | 1% |
| | Sep | 166 | 6% | 160 | 3% | 126 | 2% |
| | Dec | 151 | 1% | 148 | 5% | 116 | 5% |
| | Mar | 158 | -6% | 132 | -3% | 102 | -5% |
| 2008-09 | Jun | 150 | -14% | 144 | -8% | 114 | -8% |
| | Sep | 135 | -19% | 136 | -15% | 108 | -14% |
| | Dec | 111 | -26% | 116 | -22% | 91 | -21% |
| | Mar | 111 | -29% | 93 | -29% | 73 | -28% |
| 2009-10 | Jun | 118 | -21% | 105 | -27% | 84 | -27% |
| | Sep | 119 | -12% | 112 | -18% | 90 | -17% |
| | Dec | 111 | 0% | 105 | -9% | 85 | -7% |
| | Mar | 118 | 6% | 96 | 3% | 77 | 5% |
| 2010-11 | Jun | 127 | 8% | 113 | 8% | 91 | 9% |
| | Sep | 126 | 6% | 120 | 7% | 97 | 8% |
| | Dec | 111 | -1% | 110 | 5% | 89 | 5% |
| | Mar | 120 | 1% | 97 | 1% | 78 | 2% |
| 2011-12 | Jun | 123 | -3% | 110 | -3% | 89 | -2% |
| | Sep | 122 | -4% | 117 | -3% | 95 | -3% |
| | Dec | 112 | 1% | 109 | -2% | 89 | 0% |
| | Mar | 121 | 1% | 100 | 4% | 82 | 4% |
| 2012-13 | Jun | 121 | -2% | 111 | 1% | 90 | 1% |
| | Sep | 113 | -7% | 111 | -5% | 90 | -5% |
| | Dec | 107 | -5% | 104 | -4% | 85 | -4% |
| | Mar | 114 | -6% | 94 | -6% | 77 | -5% |
| 2013-14 | Jun | 125 | 3% | 111 | 0% | 92 | 1% |
| | Sep | 119 | 5% | 115 | 4% | 94 | 4% |
| | Dec | 109 | 2% | 105 | 1% | 86 | 1% |
| | Mar | 119 | 5% | 96 | 2% | 78 | 1% |
| 2014-15 | Jun | 123 | -1% | 104 | -6% | 92 | 1% |
| | Sep | 119 | 0% | 108 | -5% | 96 | 2% |
| | Dec | 111 | 2% | 102 | -3% | 89 | 4% |
| | Mar | 121 | 1% | 95 | 0% | 83 | 7% |
| 2015-16 | Jun | 124 | 0% | 108 | 4% | 95 | 3% |
| | Sep | 120 | 1% | 112 | 3% | 99 | 3% |
| | Dec | 111 | 0% | 106 | 4% | 92 | 4% |
| | Mar | 120 | -1% | 98 | 3% | 86 | 3% |
| Year to Mar 2015 | | 473.8 | | 409.7 | | 360.2 | |
| Year to Mar 2016 | | 474.4 | 0% | 424.7 | 4% | 372.6 | 3% |

¹ Decisions do not include conservation area consents, certificates of law ful development and notifications with effect from 1 April 2014.² For quarters before 1 April 2014, the percentages of decisions granted that can be derived using the numbers on decisions and decisions granted in this table differ from the percentage figures in Table P120. This is because the decisions shown in Table P120 for this period exclude conservation area consents, certificates of law ful development and notifications, whereas the numbers of decisions granted shown in this table *include* such applications.

Speed of decisions

In January to March 2016, 82 per cent of major applications were decided within 13 weeks or within the agreed time for Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs), Extensions of Time (EoTs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), compared with 77 per cent in the March quarter 2015. In the March quarter 2016, 78 per cent of minor applications and 86 per cent of other applications were decided within 8 weeks or the agreed time. These figures show increases, compared with 70 per cent and 82 per cent a year earlier respectively. The percentage of decisions made in time varied widely between local planning authorities, ranging from 10 to 100 per cent for major developments, 24 to 100 per cent for minor developments and 34 to 100 per cent for other developments. **(Tables P120, P123 and P131)**

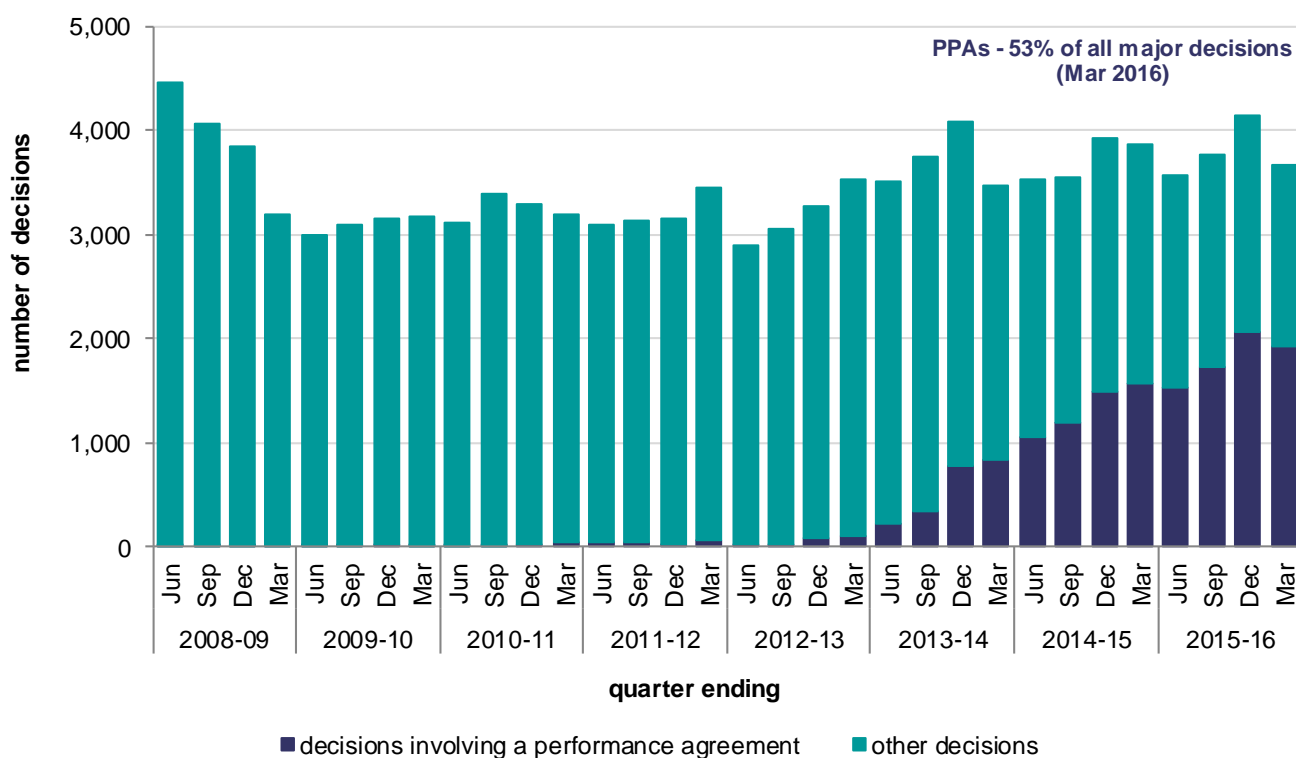
Legislation¹ allows planning applications to be submitted directly to the Secretary of State if a local planning authority has been designated on the basis of under-performance. One of the two criteria set out in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) (revised 2015) relates to the speed of decision-making². Because deciding an application on time can include the use of a performance agreement, the calculation of the proportion of decisions made within the agreed time was changed to include PPAs from April 2008 for major and some 'other' developments, and to also include agreed EoTs and EIAs from April 2013. Applications since April 2014 for minor developments and for changes of use, householder developments and advertisements can now also be recorded as having included a performance agreement.

Because the most consistent reporting of agreements is for major applications, **Figure 2** and **Table 2** show, from 2008, numbers of decisions on major developments made involving a performance agreement, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of all decisions on major developments. Notwithstanding these definitional changes, there has been a marked increase in the use of agreements since early 2013, although the increases have slowed down in recent quarters, and the number dropped in the latest available quarter. In reality this has been driven by both the additional scope for recording them and their additional use. The proportion of major decisions subject to an agreement was 53 per cent during January to March 2016, up from six per cent in the April to June quarter of 2013 **(Table 131)**.

¹ The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by section 1 of the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013.

² The other criterion relates to the quality of decision-making, as measured by the percentage of appeals that are successful, for which figures are published in Table **P152**.

Figure 2: Use of performance agreements with applications for major developments¹
 England, quarter ending June 2008 to quarter ending March 2016



¹ Figures cover planning performance agreements from April 2008 and agreed extensions of time and environmental impact assessments from 1 April 2013.

The three final columns in Table P120 give corresponding figures for all types of performance agreement, showing numbers of decisions and percentages decided within time. In the March quarter 2016, a total of 17,000 decisions involving performance agreements were made, of which 14,400 (85 per cent) were decided on time. The notes to Table 120 describe how the scope of the information collected has changed over time, in terms of: i) the type of agreement; and ii) the type of development covered.

Figure 3 and **Reference Table 2** show that in the March quarter of 2016, 86 per cent of major development decisions involving performance agreements were made on time. In comparison, 77 per cent of major decisions not involving performance agreements were made within the statutory time limit of 13 weeks.

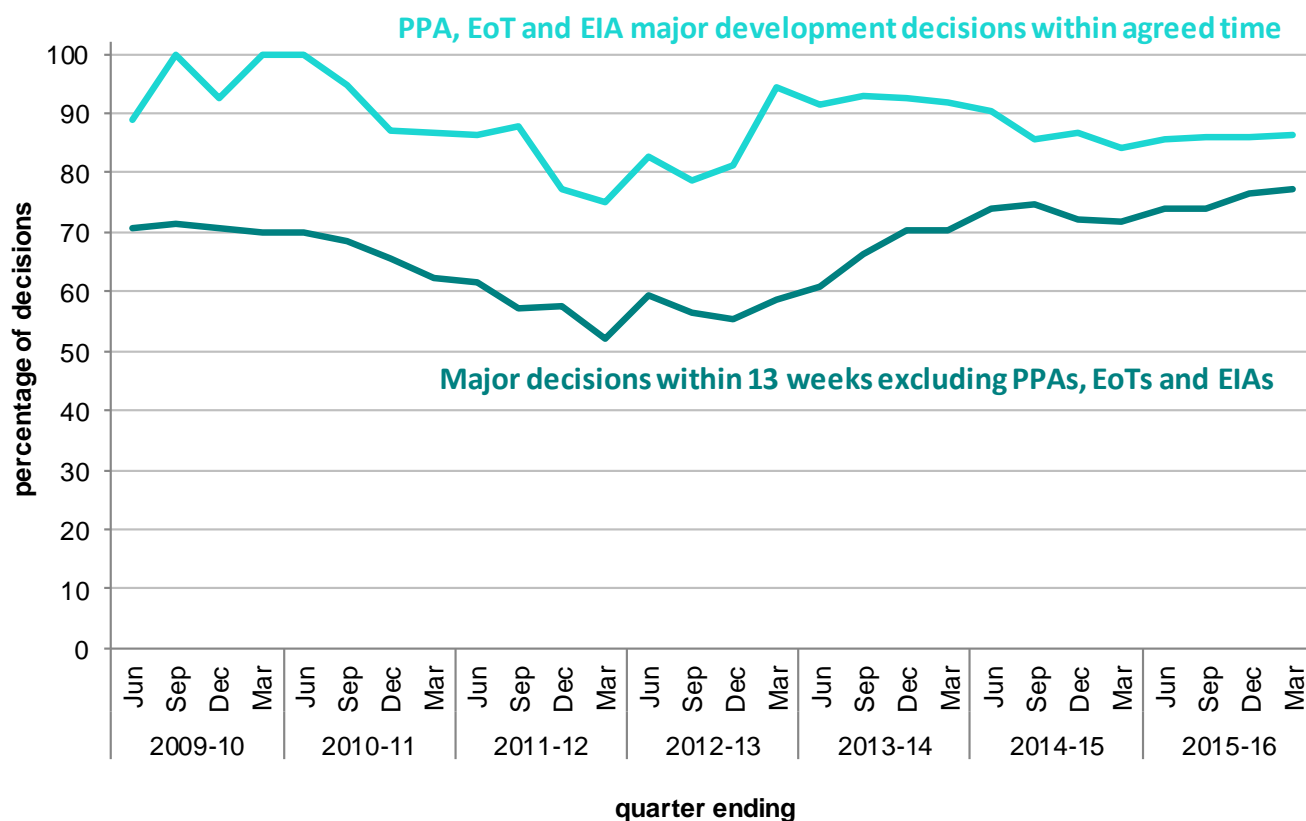
Table 2: Use of performance agreements with applications for major developments¹
 England, quarter ending June 2008 to quarter ending March 2016

| Number / Percentage | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Financial year | Quarter ending | Decisions involving a performance agreement | Total number of decisions | <i>Decisions involving a performance agreement as a % of the total number of decisions</i> |
| 2008-09 | Jun | 1 | 4,454 | 0 |
| | Sep | 2 | 4,065 | 0 |
| | Dec | 8 | 3,840 | 0 |
| | Mar | 2 | 3,197 | 0 |
| 2009-10 | Jun | 9 | 2,998 | 0 |
| | Sep | 11 | 3,087 | 0 |
| | Dec | 27 | 3,148 | 1 |
| | Mar | 18 | 3,177 | 1 |
| 2010-11 | Jun | 19 | 3,108 | 1 |
| | Sep | 19 | 3,400 | 1 |
| | Dec | 23 | 3,292 | 1 |
| | Mar | 53 | 3,191 | 2 |
| 2011-12 | Jun | 51 | 3,099 | 2 |
| | Sep | 41 | 3,140 | 1 |
| | Dec | 31 | 3,150 | 1 |
| | Mar | 68 | 3,445 | 2 |
| 2012-13 | Jun | 23 | 2,892 | 1 |
| | Sep | 28 | 3,048 | 1 |
| | Dec | 85 | 3,271 | 3 |
| | Mar | 106 | 3,523 | 3 |
| 2013-14 | Jun | 226 | 3,517 | 6 |
| | Sep | 343 | 3,744 | 9 |
| | Dec | 772 | 4,081 | 19 |
| | Mar | 845 | 3,474 | 24 |
| 2014-15 | Jun | 1,061 | 3,541 | 30 |
| | Sep | 1,199 | 3,546 | 34 |
| | Dec | 1,499 | 3,931 | 38 |
| | Mar | 1,571 | 3,864 | 41 |
| 2015-16 | Jun ^R | 1,535 | 3,569 | 43 |
| | Sep ^R | 1,730 | 3,776 | 46 |
| | Dec ^R | 2,065 | 4,143 | 50 |
| | Mar ^P | 1,932 | 3,662 | 53 |

¹ Figures cover planning performance agreements from April 2008 and also agreed extensions of time and environmental impact assessments from 1 April 2013

R Revised
 P Provisional

Figure 3: Percentage of major development decisions made within time¹
 England, quarter ending June 2009 to quarter ending March 2016



¹ Figures cover planning performance agreements from April 2009 and agreed extensions of time and environmental impact assessments from 1 April 2013

Performance of individual district level local planning authorities

Table P151a presents data on the performance of district level local planning authorities against the published criterion in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) on the speed of decision-making for informing decisions on the designation of poorly performing local planning authorities under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, it gives detailed figures for the time taken for **major** decisions to be made over the eight most recent quarters.

Similarly, **Table P152a**, presents data on the performance of district level local planning authorities against the published criterion in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) on the quality of decision-making for assessing performance under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, it gives detailed figures for the percentage of **major** decisions subject to a successful planning appeal, by matching eight quarters of the department's data on decisions and all available quarters of Planning Inspectorate data on appeals. This table is usually published a few weeks after the statistical release and most of the other live tables, to take account of the latest appeals data.³

³ The latest published version of Table P152a covers decisions made during the eight quarters to December 2014 and appeals decisions to September 2015, with Table P154 relating to a quarter earlier. For both tables, technical concerns relating to some aspects of the appeals data have been identified and are currently being investigated.

Table P153 presents data for the time taken by district level local planning authorities for decisions on **minor and other** developments (defined as changes of use and householder developments) to be made over the eight most recent quarters.

Table P154 presents data for the percentage of decisions on minor and other developments (as defined for Table P153 above) subject to a successful planning appeal, by matching eight quarters of the department's data on decisions and all available quarters of Planning Inspectorate data on appeals. Like Table P152a, this table is usually published a few weeks after the statistical release and most of the other live tables, to take account of the latest appeals data: see footnote 3.

Residential decisions

The figures collected by the department are numbers of decisions on planning applications submitted to local planning authorities rather than the number of units included in each application, such as the number of homes in the case of housing developments. The department supplements this information by obtaining statistics on housing approvals from a contractor. The latest figures show that approval for 265,000 homes was given in the year to 31 March 2016, compared to a revised figure of 263,000 homes approved in the year to 31 December 2015.⁴ The number of homes granted permission during the year to 31 March 2016 was eight per cent higher than in the year to 31 March 2015. These figures are provided to give contextual information, and have not been designated as National Statistics.

Regarding the figures reported on PS1/2 returns, in January to March 2016, 15,100 decisions were made on applications for residential⁵ developments, unchanged from March quarter 2015. Of these, 11,300 residential applications were granted, down one per cent from the March quarter 2015. The number of major residential decisions decreased by five per cent from January to March 2015 to January to March 2016 - to 1,800 - while the number of minor residential decisions increased slightly from 13,200 to 13,300. Authorities granted 81 per cent of major residential applications, up from 79 per cent in the March quarter 2015, deciding 78 per cent of them within 13 weeks or the agreed time. Authorities granted 74 per cent of decisions on minor residential applications, deciding 74 per cent of them within 8 weeks or the agreed time. **(Tables P123 and P135)**. In the year ending March 2016, authorities granted 5,900 major and 40,800 minor residential applications, with 79 and 74 per cent of applications being granted respectively. **(Table P136)**

Householder developments

Householder developments are those developments to a house which require planning permission such as extensions, loft conversions and conservatories (more details are in the *Definitions* section). The number of decisions on householder developments increased by seven per cent, from 45,000 decisions in the March quarter 2015 to 48,000 decisions in the corresponding quarter

⁴ DCLG analysis of Glenigan data. Glenigan is a private provider of planning application data. The initial figure for the year to 31 December 2015 given in the previous statistical release (253,000) has subsequently been revised by Glenigan. Glenigan routinely collects data on planning applications submitted to all English local planning authorities and records the information by maintaining a 'planning application' for every project. The data are updated over time as subsequent applications are submitted and decisions made, with all new applications being matched against the existing database at entry stage. This involves an automated process supplemented by manual checking to identify any further matching projects. More details are given in the Definitions section of this release.

⁵ 'Residential' is used in this release to refer only to developments involving the construction or conversion of dwellings, rather than also including other developments involving people's homes, such as householder developments and some changes of use.

in 2016, when they accounted for 49 per cent of all decisions. Authorities granted 90 per cent of these applications and decided 88 per cent within 8 weeks or the agreed time. (**Table P123**).

Prior approvals for permitted developments

Following the creation in May 2013 of some additional permitted development right categories (see the *Definitions* section) and consultation with local authorities, the department increased the level of detailed information on prior approvals for permitted developments collected on the PS1 return with effect from 1 April 2014. The results for the eighth quarter for which they have been collected (January to March 2016) are given in **Tables PDR1** (local authority level figures) and **PDR2** (England totals). Of the 9,000 applications reported in the January to March quarter of 2016, prior approval was not required for 5,100, and permission was granted for 2,300 and refused for 1,700. This means that 7,400 applications were approved without having to go through the full planning process: either because prior approval was not required, or because permission was granted. This resulted in an overall acceptance rate⁶ of 82 per cent. 69 per cent of applications (6,200) related to larger householder extensions, with 8 per cent relating to office to residential changes and 7 per cent relating to agricultural to residential changes.

The total number of applications reported during January to March 2016 (9,000) was six per cent greater than in January to March 2015. Within this total, the number of granted applications increased by 17 per cent, the number of refusals remained unchanged and the number of cases where prior approval was not required increased by three per cent. Taking i) granted applications and ii) those for which prior approval was not required together, 7,400 applications were approved without having to go through the full planning process, up seven per cent on a year earlier

Within the overall increase of six percent in the reported number of applications between January to March 2015 and January to March 2016:

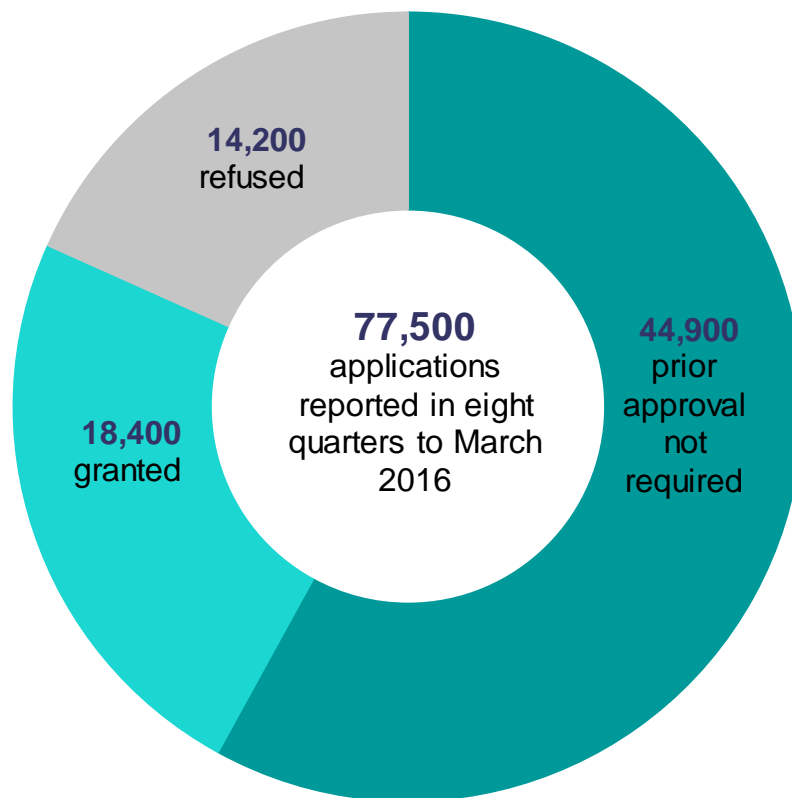
- Larger householder extensions increased by one per cent
- office to residential changes dropped by 15 per cent
- agricultural to residential changes dropped by 11 per cent; and
- there was a 111 per cent increase in the 'All others' category, partly due to the creation of several new categories with effect from 15 April 2015, including storage and distribution centres to residential, and amusement arcades/centres and casinos to residential.⁷

The overall acceptance rate for the eight quarters ending March 2016 was 82 per cent. The rate initially dropped from 85 per cent in the first quarter to 79 per cent in the third quarter, but has since stabilised at 82 per cent in the latest three quarters (**Table PDR2**). Overall during the eight quarters ending March 2016, district planning authorities reported 77,500 applications for prior approvals for permitted developments. For 44,900 (58 per cent) of them prior approval was not required, 18,400 (24 per cent) were granted and 14,200 (18 per cent) were refused (**Figure 4**).

⁶ The acceptance rate is defined as the number of applications for which prior approval was not required, or for which permission was granted, as a percentage of the total number of applications.

⁷ Further details are given in the explanatory memorandum at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/596/memorandum/contents>.

Figure 4: Applications for prior approvals for permitted development rights reported by district planning authorities
England, eight quarters to March 2016



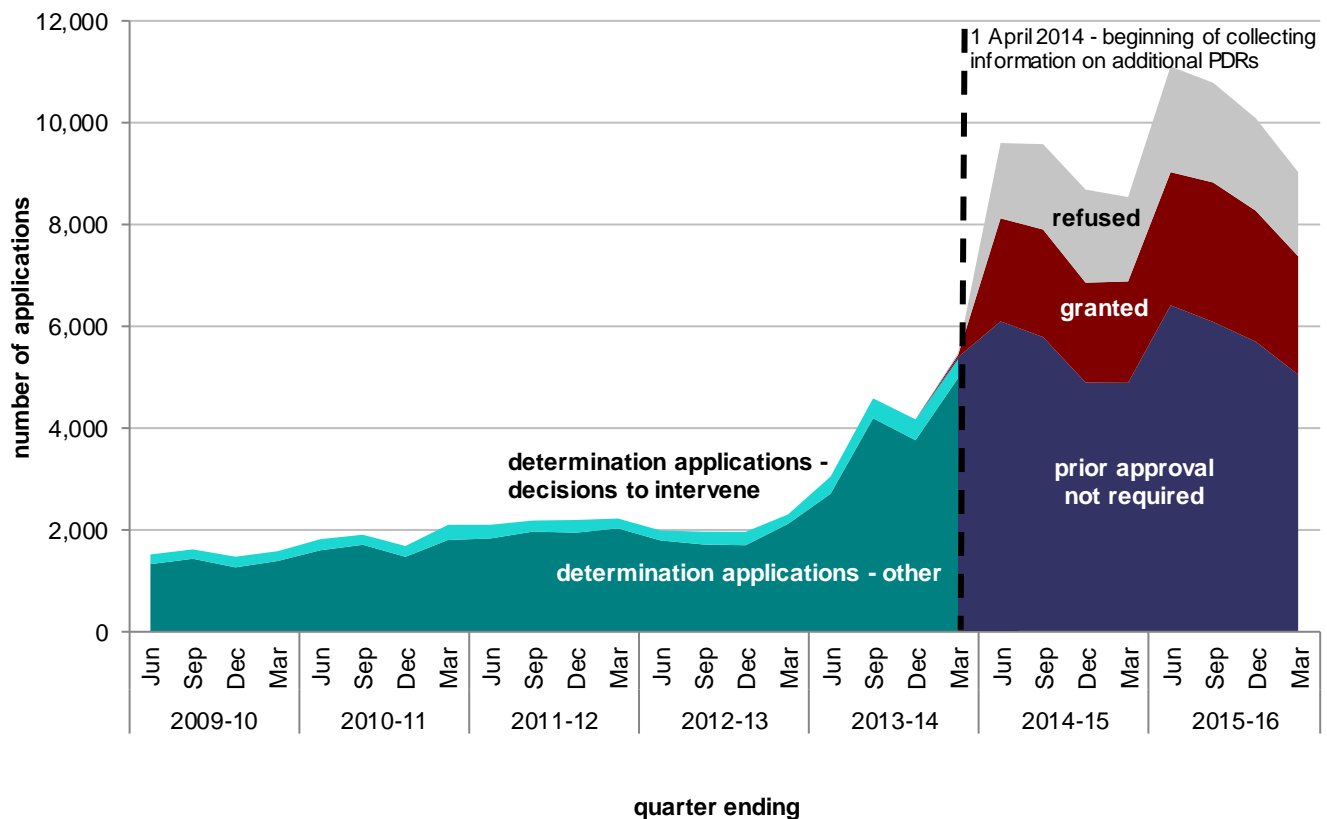
To put these recent figures into context, **Table P128** and **Figure 5** show how the number of determination applications received remained broadly stable at around 5,000 to 8,000 per year from 2004/05 to 2012/13, but approximately doubled to 15,700 in 2013/14, following the creation of the new permitted development right categories in May 2013.

Since then, there have been 36,400 applications in 2014/15 and 41,000 in 2015/16. The quarterly pattern since April 2014 reflects a combination of both: i) the introduction of new permitted development right categories in May 2013 and April 2015; and ii) the seasonal peaks and troughs that have previously been observed for planning applications, as shown in Figure 1 (**Table PDR 2** and **Figure 5**).

This significant increase in numbers of applications appears to be consistent with the 65 per cent increase in the number of dwellings added to the net housing supply through change of use between 2013/14 and 2014/15, as reported in the *Net supply of housing in England: 2014 to 2015*.⁸

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/net-supply-of-housing-in-england-2014-to-2015>

Figure 5: Applications for determination and prior approvals for permitted development rights decided by district planning authorities
 England, quarter ending June 2009 to quarter ending March 2016



Other information

England totals for all the items of information collected on the PS1 and PS2 returns for January to March 2016 are given in **Reference Tables 1 and 2** respectively. These include the following:

Delegated decisions

- Of the 98,400 decisions made during the quarter, 91,700 (93 per cent) were delegated to officers. Also see **Table P133**.

Traveller pitches

- During the quarter, authorities decided seven major applications for traveller pitches, granting three of them and deciding five of them within 13 weeks or the agreed time.
- They also decided 51 minor applications for traveller pitches, granting 31 of them and deciding 34 of them within 8 weeks or the agreed time. Also see **Table P137**.

Enforcement activity

- During the quarter, authorities issued 1,276 enforcement notices and served 981 planning contravention notices, 193 breach of condition notices, 29 stop notices and 61 temporary stop notices, while nine enforcement injunctions were granted by the High/County Court and no injunctive applications were refused. Also see **Table P127**.

Regulation 3 and 4 decisions

- 441 'Regulation 3' and 67 'Regulation 4' decisions were made during the quarter. Also see **Table P128**.

Authorities undertaking county level planning

Authorities that undertake county level planning activity – which includes counties, unitary authorities, London boroughs, metropolitan districts, national parks and urban development corporations⁹ - received 1,261 ‘county matters’ applications in the year ending March 2016 (**Table 3** and **Table P144**). This compares with around 474,000 planning applications received by authorities that undertake district level planning activities. Statistics for ‘county matters’ decisions are therefore likely to be more volatile than those for districts because of the smaller numbers of such decisions.

County level figures are unrounded in this publication. Summary statistics on numbers of applications, decisions and permissions granted are shown in **Table 3**. More detailed figures are given in the accompanying Live Tables.

Planning applications

In the March quarter 2016, authorities received 288 ‘county matter’ applications, down 8 per cent from the same quarter last year. County councils accounted for 77 per cent of total applications received, unitary authorities for 12 per cent and metropolitan districts for 7 per cent. The highest number of applications was received by Norfolk County Council (21 applications). 109 out of 164 authorities (66 per cent) did not receive any ‘county matter’ applications. (**Table P143**).

Planning decisions

‘County matters’ authorities made decisions on 290 planning applications in the March quarter 2016, down 6 per cent on the same quarter a year earlier. Of these, 93 per cent (270) were granted, unchanged from the same quarter last year (**Table P143**). Waste developments accounted for 58 per cent of the total decisions and minerals developments accounted for 38 per cent (**Table P140**).

Speed of decisions

In the March quarter 2016, ‘county matters’ planning authorities determined 93 per cent of applications within 13 weeks or the agreed time (**Table P143**).

Performance of individual county level local planning authorities

Table 151b presents data on the performance of county level local planning authorities against the published criterion in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) on the speed of decision-making for informing decisions on the designation of poorly performing local planning authorities under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, it gives detailed figures for the time taken for decisions to be made over the eight most recent quarters.

Similarly, **Table P152b**, presents data on the performance of country level local planning authorities against the published criterion in [Improving planning performance: criteria for designation](#) on the quality of decision-making for assessing performance under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In particular, it gives detailed figures for the percentage of decisions subject to a successful planning appeal, by matching eight quarters of the department’s data on

⁹ In addition to the London Legacy Development Corporation, which existed at the start of 2015, two new urban developments came into existence during the year: the Old Oak and Royal Park Development Corporation on 1 April and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation on 1 July.

decisions and all available quarters of Planning Inspectorate data on appeals. This table is usually published a few weeks after the statistical release and most of the other live tables, to take account of the latest appeals data.¹⁰

Table P155 presents data on the time taken by county level local planning authorities to make decisions on oil and gas developments, using data from the eight most recent available quarters. The table has been produced to enable local planning authority performance to be measured, as set out in the Written Ministerial Statement of 16 September 2015, available at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-09-16/HCWS201/>.

Prior approval for permitted developments

Although most activity relating to permitted development rights is concerned with 'district matters', it is also relevant for 'county matters', with the CPS1 return having been amended to collect information on prior approvals for permitted developments with effect from 1 April 2014. The results for the eighth quarter of data (January to March 2016) are given as additional columns in **Table PDR3**, which show that eight applications for prior approval for permitted development were reported for the January to March quarter of 2016. This compares with ten applications in the January to March 2015 quarter.

Other information

England totals for the items of information collected on the CPS1 returns for January to March 2016 are given in **Reference Table 3**. These include the following:

Delegated decisions

- Of the 290 decisions made during the quarter, 192 (66 per cent) were delegated to officers.

Enforcement activity

- Authorities issued eleven enforcement notices during the quarter, and served 31 planning contravention notices, two stop notices and two temporary stop notices. No breach of condition notices were served, no enforcement injunctions were granted by the High Court or county courts and no injunctive applications were refused. Also see **Table P145**.

Regulation 3 and 4 decisions

- 261 'Regulation 3' and five 'Regulation 4' decisions were made. Also see **Table P143**.

¹⁰ The latest published version of Table P152b covers decisions made during the eight quarters to December 2014 and appeals decisions to September 2015. Technical concerns relating to some aspects of the appeals data have been identified and are currently being investigated.

Table 3: County level planning applications received, decided and granted

England, quarter ending June 2005 to quarter ending March 2016

| | | Number / Percentage | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Financial Year | Quarter ending | Planning applications received | | Planning decisions | | Applications granted | |
| | | Number | % change on corresponding quarter last year | Number | % change on corresponding quarter last year | Number | % change on corresponding quarter last year |
| 2005-06 | Jun | 466 | -14% | 390 | -3% | 353 | -4% |
| | Sep | 510 | -6% | 416 | -17% | 375 | -19% |
| | Dec | 398 | -22% | 456 | -1% | 417 | 0% |
| | Mar | 483 | -7% | 419 | -1% | 386 | 0% |
| 2006-07 | Jun | 450 | -3% | 408 | 5% | 369 | 5% |
| | Sep | 448 | -12% | 389 | -6% | 347 | -7% |
| | Dec | 441 | 11% | 399 | -13% | 349 | -16% |
| | Mar | 466 | -4% | 387 | -8% | 363 | -6% |
| 2007-08 | Jun | 467 | 4% | 392 | -4% | 365 | -1% |
| | Sep | 448 | 0% | 379 | -3% | 351 | 1% |
| | Dec | 452 | 2% | 390 | -2% | 358 | 3% |
| | Mar | 473 | 2% | 341 | -12% | 317 | -13% |
| 2008-09 | Jun | 392 | -16% | 374 | -5% | 344 | -6% |
| | Sep | 439 | -2% | 379 | 0% | 347 | -1% |
| | Dec | 405 | -10% | 361 | -7% | 334 | -7% |
| | Mar | 431 | -9% | 393 | 15% | 358 | 13% |
| 2009-10 | Jun | 355 | -9% | 313 | -16% | 293 | -15% |
| | Sep | 406 | -8% | 336 | -11% | 304 | -12% |
| | Dec | 406 | 0% | 376 | 4% | 343 | 3% |
| | Mar | 408 | -5% | 312 | -21% | 294 | -18% |
| 2010-11 | Jun | 355 | 0% | 314 | 0% | 291 | -1% |
| | Sep | 400 | -1% | 299 | -11% | 275 | -10% |
| | Dec | 433 | 7% | 319 | -15% | 295 | -14% |
| | Mar | 415 | 2% | 374 | 20% | 340 | 16% |
| 2011-12 | Jun | 399 | 12% | 357 | 14% | 334 | 15% |
| | Sep | 482 | 21% | 363 | 21% | 338 | 23% |
| | Dec | 452 | 4% | 431 | 35% | 404 | 37% |
| | Mar | 498 | 20% | 372 | -1% | 347 | 2% |
| 2012-13 | Jun | 404 | 1% | 431 | 21% | 400 | 20% |
| | Sep | 468 | -3% | 397 | 9% | 371 | 10% |
| | Dec | 415 | -8% | 427 | -1% | 403 | 0% |
| | Mar | 384 | -23% | 363 | -2% | 342 | -1% |
| 2013-14 | Jun | 413 | 2% | 355 | -18% | 339 | -15% |
| | Sep | 408 | -13% | 341 | -14% | 330 | -11% |
| | Dec | 451 | 9% | 428 | 0% | 397 | -1% |
| | Mar | 402 | 5% | 341 | -6% | 318 | -7% |
| 2014-15 | Jun | 367 | -11% | 329 | -7% | 307 | -9% |
| | Sep | 394 | -3% | 333 | -2% | 313 | -5% |
| | Dec | 344 | -24% | 344 | -20% | 326 | -18% |
| | Mar | 313 | -22% | 307 | -10% | 286 | -10% |
| 2015-16 | Jun | 302 | -18% | 287 | -13% | 254 | -17% |
| | Sep | 353 | -10% | 287 | -14% | 275 | -12% |
| | Dec | 318 | -8% | 299 | -13% | 281 | -14% |
| | Mar | 288 | -8% | 290 | -6% | 270 | -6% |
| Year to Mar 2015 | | 1,418 | | 1,313 | | 1,232 | |
| Year to Mar 2016 | | 1,261 | -11% | 1,163 | -11% | 1,080 | -12% |

Accompanying tables

The accompanying tables updated and available to download alongside this release are:

District planning authorities

- P120** District planning authorities - planning applications received, decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions, England (quarterly and financial years' data)
- P121/P122** District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted and speed of decisions, by type of authority, England (P121 quarterly, P122 yearly data)
- P123/P124** District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions, by type of development, England (P123 quarterly, P124 yearly data)
- P124A** District planning authorities - planning decisions by development type and local planning authority (yearly data)
- P127** District planning authorities - enforcement action, England (quarterly and financial years' data)
- P128** District planning authorities - regulation 3 and 4 decisions made and applications for determination, England (quarterly and financial years' data)
- P129/P130** District planning authorities - enforcement action by local planning authority (P129 quarterly, P130 yearly data)
- P131/P132** District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions, by development type and local planning authority (P131 quarterly, P132 yearly data)
- P133** District planning authorities - applications received, decided, granted and delegated, environmental statements received and flow of applications by local planning authority (quarterly data)
- P134** District planning authorities - applications received, decided, granted and delegated and environmental statements received, by local planning authority (yearly data)
- P135/P136** District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted, performance agreements and speed of decisions on major and minor residential developments, by local planning authority (P135 quarterly, P136 yearly data)
- P137/P138** District planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted and speed of decisions on major and minor traveller caravans, by local planning authority (P137 quarterly, P138 yearly data)

County planning authorities

- P139** 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications received, decided and granted, by type of authority, England (quarterly and financial years' data)

- P140/P141** 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications decided and granted, by type of authority and type of development, England (P140 quarterly, P141 yearly data)
- P142** 'County matters' planning authorities - planning decisions, by speed of decision, England (quarterly and financial years' data)
- P143/P144** 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications received, decided and granted, speed of decisions and regulation 3 and 4 decisions, by local planning authority (P143 quarterly, P144 yearly data)
- P145** 'County matters' planning authorities - enforcement action, England (quarterly and financial years' data)
- P146** 'County matters' planning authorities - decisions on minerals applications, by type of development, England (financial years' data)
- P147** 'County matters' planning authorities - decisions on waste planning applications, by type of development, England (financial years' data)
- P148** 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications decided and granted, by nature of site, and type of development, England (yearly data)
- P149** 'County matters' planning authorities - planning applications decided, granted and speed of decisions, by type of development, England (yearly data)
- P151a/b** District and 'county matters' planning authorities' performance - speed of major development decisions (24 months' data)
- P152a/b** District and 'county matters' planning authorities' performance - quality of major development decisions (24 months' data)
- P153** District planning authorities' performance - speed of minor and other development decisions (24 months' data)
- P154** District planning authorities' performance - quality of minor and other development decisions (24 months' data)
- P155** 'County matters' planning authorities' performance - speed of decisions on oil/gas developments (24 months' data)

Permitted development right (previously Experimental) tables¹¹

- PDR1** District planning authorities - applications for prior approvals for permitted developments, by local planning authority (all available quarters)
- PDR2** District planning authorities - applications for prior approvals for permitted developments, England (all available quarters)
- PDR3** 'County matters' planning authorities - applications for prior approvals for permitted developments, by local planning authority (all available quarters)

¹¹ With effect from the September 2015 release, the names of these three tables have been changed from previous quarters to reflect the fact that the statistics included are no longer 'experimental'. They were previously E1, E2 and E3 respectively.

Reference Tables

- 1 PS1 – England totals: January to March 2016
- 2 PS2 – England totals: January to March 2016
- 3 CPS1 – England totals: January to March 2016

These tables can be accessed at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>

The following tables remain available from the link above but cannot be updated for the reasons given below.

- P125/P126** District planning authorities – major planning decisions by speed, performance agreements and type of development: separate data on large- and small-scale major developments have not been collected since April 2014
- P150** 'County matters' planning authorities – reasons given for decisions taking over 8 weeks: data have not been collected since April 2014

Data held on Open Data Communities

A selection of data from the following planning live tables is held on **Open Data Communities** at <http://opendatacommunities.org>:

- P124A
- P132

The **Open Data mobile app** provides a range of statistics published by the department for the locality and is available for download free of charge from the [Windows App Store](#) and [Google Playstore](#). Any enquiries about the app should be sent to ODC@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

A planning statistics **email alert** is sent to anyone wishing to be informed each time some DCLG planning application statistics are published. To sign up for this free service, please send an email to planning.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Definitions

The *Plain English guide to the Planning System* explains how the planning system in England works. It is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plain-english-guide-to-the-planning-system>. In particular, the flow chart in Annex C on page 20 shows the stages in the planning application process.

Information on the definitions most relevant to the statistics included in this release and to the associated live tables is given below, in alphabetical order.

Advertisements

These are decisions on applications for consent to display advertisements under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992 (as amended).

Applications received

The following applications are included:

(a) Valid applications for planning permission for development under Articles 5,6 and 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, SI 2015/595 (as amended) namely:

- (i) Applications for outline planning permission;
- (ii) Applications for approval of reserved matters;
- (iii) Applications for full planning permission.

This includes any application for time limited permission and any application that is accompanied by an environmental statement.

(b) Applications under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary or remove conditions (including applications for minor material amendments).

(c) Developments which would normally have been permitted under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 but have come before the local planning authority for determination because they require an Environmental Impact Assessment;

(d) Valid applications for listed building consent under section 8 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

(e) Valid applications for planning permission for relevant demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area under section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

(f) Valid applications for consent to display advertisements under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/783 (as amended).

(g) Valid applications under regulations 3 and 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 SI 1992/1492 (as amended).

Change of use

Many developments involve some change of land use, but a decision is classified as 'Change of Use' only if:

- (i) the application does not concern a major development; and
- (ii a) no building or engineering work is involved; or
- (ii b) the building or engineering work would be permitted development were it not for the fact that the development involved a change of use (such as the removal of internal dividing walls in a dwelling house to provide more spacious accommodation for office use).

Conservation area consents

Decisions on applications for conservation area consent under section 74 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

County level planning is currently undertaken by county councils, metropolitan districts, unitary authorities, London boroughs, national park authorities and the London Legacy Development Corporation.

County matters - major developments

Applications for developments which are described as 'county matters' are – broadly - those which relate to minerals, waste and associated developments. A more detailed definition is contained in:

- (a) Schedule 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and
- (b) Town & Country Planning (Prescription of County Matters) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 /1033).

For the purpose of the CPS1/2 form, all 'county matter' development is regarded as 'major development'. The Development Management Procedure Order (DPMO) 2010 defines 'major development' as including:

- (i) the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits;
- (ii) waste development;
- (iii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more; and
- (iv) development carried out on a site having an area of one hectare or more.

District level planning is currently undertaken by metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities, London boroughs, national park authorities and Ebbsfleet, London Legacy and Old Oak and Royal Park development corporations. These authorities include applications for planning permissions on residential, offices, industrial, retail and householder developments.

District matters – major developments

For district matters applications, 'major development' means development involving any one or more of the following:

- The provision of dwellings where –
 - The number of dwellings to be provided is ten or more: or
 - The development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the number of dwellings to be provided is ten or more.
- The provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more: or
- Development carried out on a site having an area of one hectare or more.

Before 1 April 2014, the statistical returns distinguished between large-scale and small-scale major developments, but this breakdown of figures is no longer requested from local planning authorities as a result of the recent review of the returns.

District matters - minor developments

For dwellings, minor development is one where the number of dwellings to be provided is between one and nine inclusive on a site having an area of less than one hectare. Where the number of dwellings to be provided is not known, a site area of less than 0.5 hectares should be used as the definition of a minor development. For all other uses, a minor development is one where the floor

space to be created is less than 1,000 square metres or where the site area is less than one hectare. Decisions are classified as relating to a major/minor development on the basis of the development covered by the application which was decided.

Enforcement activity

Local planning authorities have discretionary powers to take formal enforcement action if, in their view, an unacceptable breach of planning control has occurred. Where it is necessary to stop a breach immediately, the authority may issue a Temporary Stop Notice. This will halt development for 28 days while the alleged breach is investigated and further enforcement action is considered, without the need for the authority to issue an associated enforcement notice.

The authority may issue an Enforcement Notice requiring the alleged breach to be remedied. If an authority considers that any activity alleged in an Enforcement Notice should cease before the end of the specified compliance period, they may serve a Stop Notice prohibiting continuation of that activity. Where conditional planning permission has been granted for a development of land and there has been a failure to comply with one or more of the conditions, an authority may serve a Breach of Condition Notice on any person who is carrying out or has carried out development, or anyone having control of the land, requiring compliance with the conditions specified in the notice.

Householder developments

Householder developments (as referred to in some of the live tables, such as P123) are defined as those within the curtilage of a dwelling house which require an application for planning permission and are not a change of use. **Included** in householder developments are extensions, conservatories, loft conversions, dormer windows, alterations, garages, car ports or outbuildings, swimming pools, walls, fences, domestic vehicular accesses including footway crossovers, porches and satellite dishes. Granny annexes have been included with effect from 1 July 2014, having previously been recorded under dwellings. **Excluded** from householder developments are: applications relating to any work to one or more flats, applications to change the number of dwellings (flat conversions, building a separate house in the garden), changes of use to part or all of the property to non-residential (including business) uses, or anything outside the garden of the property (including stables if in a separate paddock).

By definition, householder developments that *do not require* an application for planning permission are also excluded – e.g. for extensions, these include those for which permitted development rights exist, including larger householder extensions (as defined under ‘Permitted development rights’ in the *Definitions* section) for which local authority prior approval is needed, and those that satisfy other conditions within the General Permitted Development Order, for which prior approval is not needed, and for which data are therefore not collected.

Listed building consents

Decisions by the district planning authority on:

- (i) applications for listed building consent to extend and/or alter under section 8 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; and
- (ii) applications for listed building consent to demolish under section 8 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Permitted development rights

Planning permission for some types of development has been granted nationally through the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. In some cases, if the legislation is complied with, developments can go ahead without the requirement to notify the local planning authority and hence no way of capturing data exists. In other cases, the General Permitted Development Order requires an application to the local planning authority to determine whether prior approval is required, and figures for seven such categories are collected for district matters:

- Larger householder extensions (greater than four metres but less than eight metres for detached dwelling houses, or three metres but less than six metres for other dwelling houses, as covered by the neighbour notification scheme as set out in paragraph A.4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 1)
- Offices to residential (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class J)
- Retail to residential (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class IA)
- Agricultural to residential (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MB)
- To state-funded school or registered nursery from various (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class K; Class MA)
- From agricultural buildings to flexible uses (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 3, Class M)
- All others - refers to all other types of development for which decisions on applications for prior approval had been made during the quarter.

Regulation 3 and 4 consents

Under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992, SI 1992/1492, a local planning authority makes an application to itself for permission to develop land within its area, and determines that application – such as for a school. Regulation 4 is concerned with planning permission for development of land in which the local planning authority has an interest but which it does not itself propose to carry out.

Use categories

Decisions relating to major or minor developments are classified by reference to the principal use within the development (i.e. the use on which other uses are considered to depend). Normally this is the one which accounts for the greater proportion of the new floorspace (although in certain cases the principal use will be one that does not account for any floorspace as such).

If there is any doubt as to the principal use in a multi-storey block, the ground floor use is taken as the principal one. (This rule would apply where, for example, the amounts of floorspace taken up

by two different uses were approximately equal). Proposed developments are classified on the basis of the principal use and not that of the complex of which they are part. Thus a development involving the construction of offices within the curtilage of a general industrial site would be classified as 'Offices/Research and Development/Light Industry'. Similarly, a dance-floor extension to a restaurant would be classified as 'All other minor developments' and not to 'Retail, distribution and servicing'.

Data on housing approvals provided by Glenigan

Units granted residential planning permission are recorded when a residential development site receives:

- detailed residential planning permission; or
- approval of reserved matters.

The figures exclude elderly people's homes, hostels and student accommodation. They include mixed use developments (commercial and residential) involving more than ten residential units. They are for England only.

Other details:

- Units from different phases of a single residential development site are included in these figures only when planning permission is obtained for that phase.
- Units on residential development sites with planning permission are excluded where the residential development site has already received a planning permission within the previous twelve months to avoid double counting.
- Where multiple planning permissions are given to a residential development site in the same quarter, only one planning permission is counted for the purpose of counting units with permission.

Technical notes

Data collection

Statistics of planning applications received and decided by authorities that undertake district level planning activity have been collated, on a quarterly basis, since April 1979 on the PS1 and PS2 General Development Control statistical returns (District). From the March quarter 2008 until the March quarter 2014, the PS1, PS2 and the Fee1 (revenue collected in respect of PS1 and PS2) returns were combined as a single return, the PSF return, with the Fee element being dropped from the June quarter 2014 but the PS1 and PS2 continuing. Information on planning applications for authorities that undertake county level planning activities are collated on the CPS1/2 General Development Control statistical returns (County Matters). The PS1/2 and CPS1/2 forms are reported to the department via *Interform* – the department's housing and planning electronic data collection system.

The data collected have been chosen to provide useful and relevant information on the level and trends in planning applications and decisions to users while ensuring that the burden of completing the returns placed on local authorities is not excessive. The analysis carried out by the department

aggregates the raw data and calculates percentages to allow comparison between authorities and between different quarters or years. In particular, the percentage of decisions permitted, and the percentage of decisions made in a specified time period allow the performance and efficiency of local authorities to be judged.

Data quality

Both the PS1/2 and CPS1/2 returns submitted by local planning authorities undergo thorough validation and checks. Inconsistent data highlighted during validation and checks are verified by contacting the local authority. Late returns are pursued to ensure the overall response rate is as high as possible in advance of figures being published. Where a response rate of 100 per cent is not achieved, estimates are imputed for some variables for non-responding district level authorities.

In the March quarter 2016, 338 out of 339 planning authorities (99.7 per cent) submitted district-level planning data and 164 out of 164 planning authorities (100 per cent) submitted county-level planning data in time for this publication.

Also, for this publication, data have been refreshed and re-imputed for the previous three quarters going back to the April to June quarter of 2015. This takes account of data submitted or revised since figures were last published and is in line with departmental statisticians' agreed revisions policy for housing and planning statistics.

Some variables for the small number of non-responding authorities are imputed using data from similar authorities, although some information, such as the number of enforcement notices issued are not imputed. No imputation is carried out for county level planning. Data for individual local authorities are presented in some of the accompanying tables.

All figures in the commentary have been calculated using unrounded data. As a result, there may be some apparent discrepancies with rounded figures shown in the accompanying tables.

From April 2007, an indication on the level of quality assurance undertaken by the local authority is recorded as part of the final sign-off for these returns.

Authorities are supplied with comprehensive guidance to ensure that there is a common understanding of the various categories of planning application which are recorded on the PS1/2 and CPS1/2 forms. Possible sources of error include mistakes when submitting information, although we do ask authorities to indicate what quality assurance they have undertaken when completing the returns, as well as the errors caused by using imputed data because an authority has not submitted information in time. However, as we routinely achieve response rates of over 98 per cent, this error is minimised.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>).

There are two types of revision that the policy covers:

Non-scheduled revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Scheduled revisions

Local authorities can submit missing data or revise their PS1/2 and CPS1/2 returns following publication of the data. Data are revised for the previous three quarters and for the Autumn designations data are revised for the past ten quarters. A decision on whether to revise will be made based on the impact of any change and the effect it has on the interpretation of the time series. Provisional figures are labelled in the tables with a "P".

Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) are made only where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition. Where small changes have been identified that do not substantially change the data, and are not regarded as big enough to warrant a change to the published figures, internal updates are maintained by the department.

Previously published information is not revised unless there has been a systematic error.

Scale of revisions

Actual revisions to submitted data that are big enough to result in changes to published national figures are rare. However, due to the Government's policy of designating authorities based on their performance over the past two years, there are circumstances where it is more important than usual for the detailed published figures to be accurate at a local authority level. In such circumstances, we allow authorities to resubmit missing or incorrect data for previous quarters, particularly for Live Tables P151, P152, P153 and P154. These local authority level changes would not normally merit a non-scheduled revision but may be recorded or marked in the published table with a change or footnote. This is to improve the transparency of the performance system in this particular policy area rather than indicating a change to the general approach to making revisions to published statistics. In some cases, the department may require supporting evidence from a local planning authority before it makes these changes, as part of the data checking process.

Uses of the data

The data in this statistical release are used for a variety of purposes. Ministers and officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government use this information for policy formulation and development and for decisions on designating poorly-performing local planning authorities. The figures are also of interest to the Planning Inspectorate, local government, planning and development professionals, academics, house builders and developers, other businesses, charities and campaign groups, members of the public and the media. Examples of the uses made of the data by these users are given in the user engagement strategy and planning and land use statistics referred to below. The data are also used to ensure democratic accountability in answers to Parliamentary Questions, ministerial correspondence, Freedom of Information Act cases and queries from the public.

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>

The user engagement strategy on planning and land use statistics can be found at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7514/1757090.pdf

Notes

This Release is a web-only publication. Details of officials who receive pre-release access to this statistical release 24 hours before publication can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics#pre-release-access-to-official-statistics>

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate. It is DCLG's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics.

This Statistical Release and previous publications can be accessed from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/planning-applications-statistics>

Devolved administration statistics

Information and statistics on planning applications for the devolved administrations can be accessed at the following links:

Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Planning>

Wales: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningstats/?lang=en>

Northern Ireland: <http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/tools/about-statistics.htm>

Enquiries

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Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

Information about statistics at DCLG is available via the department's website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

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