



To: Directors of Planning in each local authority

CC: Chief Executives
Senior Planners
An Bord Pleanála
Office of the Planning Regulator
Directors of Regional Assemblies

Circular Letter PL 11/2021

3 December 2021

Re: Planning Statistics Returns

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to notify planning authorities that following engagement between the Department, the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Local Authority Sector through the CCMA, it has been agreed that additional planning statistics will be requested as part of the annual planning data request that will issue from the Department in 2022.

The additional statistics that will be requested cover topics under Planning which are not currently reported to the Department and will include:

- Section 5 referrals
- Section 247 Consultations
- Planners Recommendations
- Compliance submissions
- Environmental Reporting
- Staffing
- Finance
- Judicial Reviews

The statistical return to be submitted in 2022 on the above additional items will span the three year period 2019 to 2021 as this will provide valuable information on the



operation of the planning system by covering the period before and during Covid 19 measures. Full details of the planning statistics that will be requested in 2022 is outlined in the attached Appendix.

While the Department is seeking this additional information in 2022 on a returns basis, the expectation is that forthcoming advances with regard to e-planning, as well as other initiatives in the local authority sector, should see the provision of such data upgraded to a more sophisticated and streamlined format in future years.

Any queries in relation to this Circular letter should be emailed to planning@housing.gov.ie.

Terry Sheridan
Principal
Planning Policy and Legislation



Appendix: Circular Letter 11/21
Planning Statistics – Local Authority returns for 2022
Additional data required as part of 2022 Planning Data request

Following engagement between DHLGH, the OPR and the Local Authority Sector through the CCMA, the additional information specified below should be supplied as part of the 2022 request for 2021 planning statistics. This additional information is required for the three year period spanning 2019 to 2021 as this timeframe captures the period before and during Covid 19 measures.

Section 5 - determination of development':

- Number of section 5 declarations issued under Section 5(2) in the calendar year
- Number of these determinations that were classed as development
- Number of these determinations made within 4 weeks of receipt in accordance with Section 5(2)

'Section 247 - pre-planning consultations':

- Number of section 247 pre-planning consultations completed in the year - a record of which is required under Section 247(5)
- The average number of weeks to complete section 247 consultations from date of receipt of the consultation request

'Divergence from planner's recommendation':

- Number of planning applications made under section 34(1)(a) of the Act determined during the year where the decision diverged from the recommendation of the planner's report (*a list of corresponding planning application reference numbers to be provided*)

'Compliance submissions':

- Total number of compliance submissions received by the local authority in a calendar year for which points of detail relating to a grant of permission, in accordance with a planning condition, are to be agreed between the developer and the planning authority.
- Total number of compliance submissions agreed by the local authority in a calendar year for which points of detail relating to a grant of permission, in accordance with a planning condition, which were required to be agreed between the developer and the planning authority.



Note: A further request will be sought following implementation of relevant legislative provisions

Data gathering on compliance submissions will be amended once Section 23(4) of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 is commenced to include the average length of time taken to process compliance submissions

Strategic Environment Assessments under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended:

- Number of SEA Screening determinations made on matters under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in the year under the provisions of Part 3 of the Regulations where the authority concluded that there would be no likely significant effects arising from the preparation of plans.
- Number of reports presenting SEA monitoring results regarding planning which were published by the Local Authority in the calendar year
- Where a progress report required of the Chief Executive under Section 15(2) of the Act has been published, the number of significant environmental effects of implementation of the development plan that have been identified under Article 13J of the Regulations as part of the progress report, by reference to the number of objectives of the development plan so affected.

‘Staffing’:

- The number of staff (whole-time equivalents) in the Planning department on 31st December, with breakdown as follows:
 - Managerial / administrative
 - Planners
 - Other technical grades

‘Finance’:

- Income received from planning application fees during the year – as reported in appendix 4 of the Annual Financial statements
- Income received from development contributions during the year - as reported in appendix 5 of the Annual Financial statements
- Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the latest Census.

Note: For bullet point three in Finance, this is the same material as supplied to NOAC. In order to compile this information, local authorities should utilise the following data .

AFS Programme D data consisting of
D01 - Forward Planning,
D02 – Development Management,



D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for the calendar year

‘Judicial Review (JR)’:

- Reference for each JRs under Section 50 of the Act on hand at year end with each identified on the basis of:
 - when initiated
 - whether Govt. Departments or the State (the Attorney General) is also a defendant / notice party
 - including grounds relating to the EIA Directive
 - including grounds relating to the SEA Directive
 - including grounds relating to the Habitats Directive
 - including grounds relating to the other EU Directives
- Reference for each JR under Section 50 of the Act concluded during year with each identified on the basis of:
 - withdrawn by applicant
 - conceded by the authority
 - won by judgement
 - lost by judgement

Examples:

Cases on hand:

Case Number	Date initiated	State a Party	EIA related	SEA related	AA related
	dd/mm/yyyy	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N

Cases concluded:

Case Number	Date initiated	Date Concluded	Withdrawn by Applicant	Conceded	Won by judgement	Lost by Judgement
	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N

This additional data will be requested in early 2022 as part of the annual planning data return required by DHLGH and issued by the Departments’ Statistical unit.

DHLGH
December 2021