

## Planning Service New Statistical Information Service

24th October 2007

In the first phase of its commitment to implementing best practice for the statistical information it provides to the public, The DOE Planning Service announced today a timetable for the release of annual and quarterly statistical publications using its website ([www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk)). The announcement of the planned publications brings Planning Service into line with other NI Government Departments in meeting its obligation to proactively publish information as required by the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and The Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Planning Service has engaged The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to process data using official statistical standards and quality assurance methodologies. The priority for Planning Service is to disseminate statistics of notable quality. Consequently from 1 November 2007 any information released will no longer be sourced from the 'live' database system.

**To supplement the publications, DOE Planning Service has developed a suite of tools which will enable customers to generate the answers to queries online. This innovative web-based feature also includes a facility where customers can obtain details on individual planning applications, thereby giving customers access to a wider range of planning information.**

The DOE Planning Service is the **only** source of Official Statistics on planning information in Northern Ireland, and the statistics provided on its website are free from any charge. The first publication will be issued on 25 January 2008.

Type of Report	Period Reported	Business Year	Date of Publication
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Annual</b>	<b>Apr 06 – Mar 07</b>	<b>2006/7</b>	<b>25 January 08</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Apr 07 – Jun 07	2007/8	February 08
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Jul 07 – Sep 07	2007/8	March 08
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Oct 07 – Dec 07	2007/8	April 08
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Jan 08 – Mar 08	2007/8	June 08
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Apr 08 – Jun 08	2008/9	September 08
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual</b>	<b>Apr 07 – Mar 08</b>	<b>2007/8</b>	<b>October 08</b>

**Timetable for Publications in Year 1**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

1. Every public authority is required to adopt and maintain a publication scheme setting out the classes of information it holds, the manner in which it intends to publish the information, and whether a charge will be made for the information. The purpose of a scheme is to ensure a significant amount of information is available, without the need for a specific request. Schemes are intended to encourage organisations to publish more information pro-actively and to develop a greater culture of openness.[source: ONS website].
2. The current methodology of querying a 'live' database that is continuously updated on a daily basis does not produce accurate figures on a consistent basis. The timetabled publications will be produced from clean, verifiable and validated static databases which have been 'frozen' in time.
3. The timetable for the release of publications and supplementary web tools are available now on The Planning Service website ([www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk)). The timetable will be regularly updated as publications are released.
4. The Planning Service NI web tools are unique to Northern Ireland and provide a wider range of statistical services than previously available.
5. Further details on the New Statistical Information Service are available on the website or by writing to Planning Statistics, Planning Service Headquarters, Millennium House, 17-25 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7BN.