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**2011/12 Second Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
(July to September 2011 – provisional figures)**

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Section 1 – Applications received and decided

Applications received

The number of planning applications the Department received for the second quarter of 2011/12 was 3,217. This is 27% lower than the equivalent quarter last year (see table 1). As first noted in the quarter one bulletin, there has continued to be a fall in the number of planning applications for residential development, down by almost two-fifths (table 4). Commercial developments, which include retail and office developments, have also seen sharp falls. There has been a drop of 59% compared with the second quarter last year, from 348 applications to 143 (table 4).

In the second quarter of 2011/12 some 193 renewable energy applications were received, the bulk of which are for single wind turbines (table 7).

Applications withdrawn (Table 1)

In the second quarter of 2011/12, 179 applications were withdrawn by applicants or planning agents prior to a decision being issued. This is a reduction of 54% compared with the equivalent quarter in 2010/11, though one must remember that the number of applications being submitted has fallen. Applications can be withdrawn at any stage prior to a decision being made and relate to valid applications received in the quarter and in earlier financial years.

Applications decided (Table 1)

Planning issued decisions on 3,720 applications in the second quarter of 2011/12, a fall of one fifth (19%) compared with the same period last year. There were decreases in decisions issued for all application types, the greatest in percentage terms being for applications seeking outline planning permission, which fell by 44% from 632 to 354. The number of decisions issued for full planning permission fell by 14% from 3,453 to 2,969.

Applications approved (Table 1)

Overall 92% of decisions issued for planning applications in the second quarter of 2011/12 were approved. This is five percentage points higher than the same period last year (87%). There has also been a significant increase in the proportion of outline planning applications being approved, up from 51% to 71%.

Applications and geographic area (Tables 2 and 3 and Map 1)

Map 1 on page 14 shows the number of planning applications per head of population received in the quarter. This is lowest in Belfast, Derry and Newtownabbey Local Government Districts (LGD) and highest in Cookstown LGD.

In terms of overall numbers, twenty-five of the twenty-six district councils saw reductions in the number of planning applications for their area compared to the equivalent quarter last year, the exception being Derry LGD which saw a very small increase (up 4 applications from 137 to 141). Approval rates ranged from 80% in Omagh to 98% in Magherafelt.

Section 2 – Applications for Residential Development

Applications received and decided (Table 4)

The majority of applications received by the Department are for residential development, accounting for three out of every five applications received in the second quarter of 2011/12. Compared with the corresponding quarter in the previous year, there has been a fall of 1,151 residential applications, from 3,019 to 1,868, a drop of 38%. This accounts for most of the overall decline in applications.

Of the approximately 3,700 decisions issued in the second quarter of 2011/12, 63% were for residential development.

Applications for Residential Development in urban and rural areas (Table 5)

The number of applications for full planning permission in urban areas fell by 486 (42%) when compared with quarter 2 in 2010/11, from 1,153 to 667. The number of applications for full planning permission in rural areas fell by a higher proportion (45%), from 1,207 to 661. The number of reserved matters applications received for rural areas fell by just over a fifth (21%), from 146 to 116 when compared to the same period last year.

In terms of the decisions issued for residential development, those for urban areas fell by 27%, from 1,327 in quarter 2 2010/11 to 969 for the second quarter of 2011/12. Decisions issued for residential development in rural areas also fell, down under a third (32%) from 2,019 to 1,365.

The approval rate for residential development applications is higher for urban areas than it is for rural areas, standing at 96% and 88% respectively.

Applications for single dwellings (Table 6)

The number of applications received for new single dwellings in rural areas decreased from 725 to 583 when compared with the same period in 2010/11, a fall of one fifth (20%). There was also a considerable decrease in the number of planning applications received for extensions and alterations in urban areas, falling from 846 to 530 when compared with the same period in 2010/11, a drop of 37%.

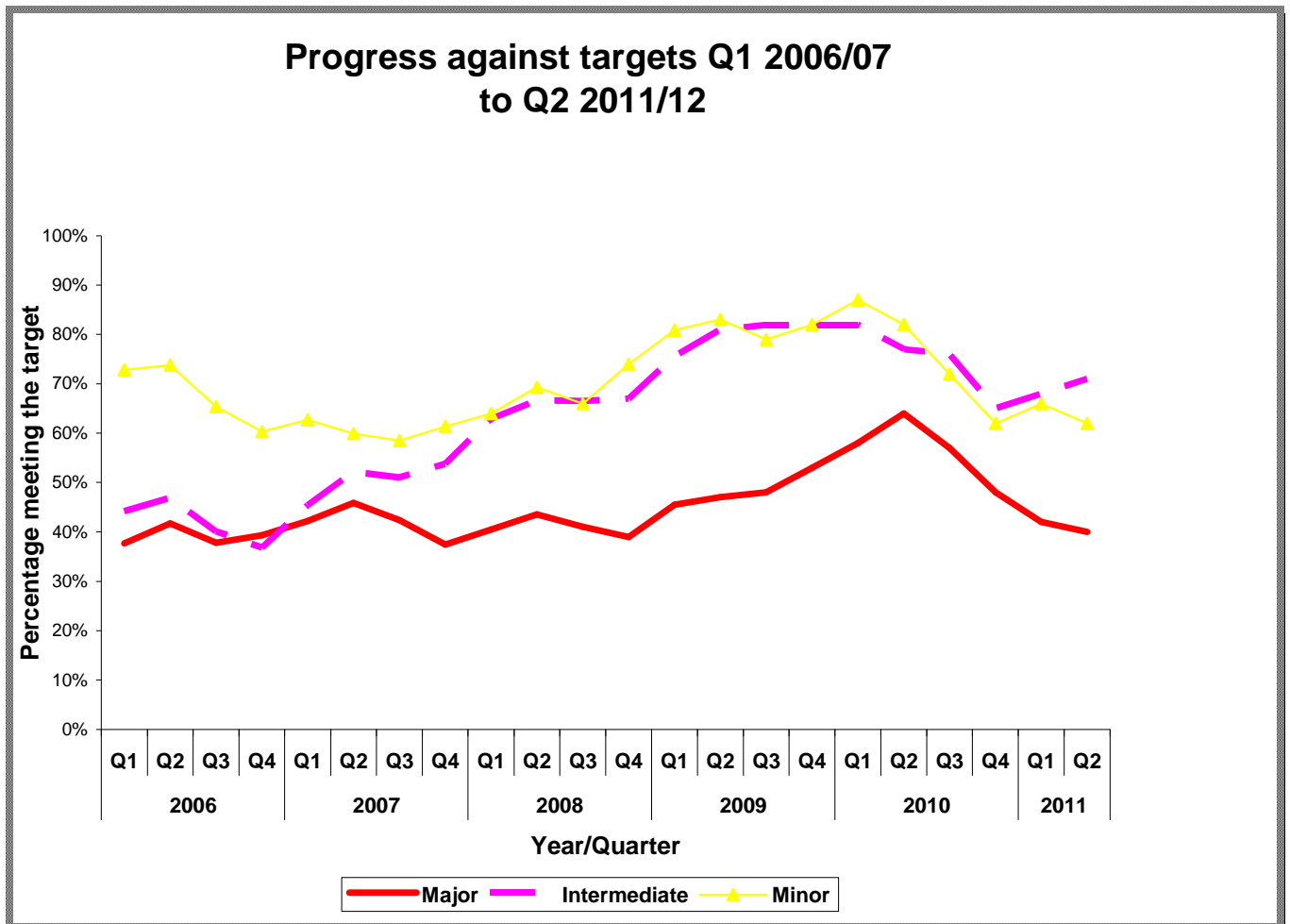
As noted in previous bulletins, planning applications which are in a rural area are most likely to be for new single houses whereas applications which are in an urban area are most likely to be for alterations or extensions.

Renewable energy applications (Table 7)

Renewable energy applications include wind turbines, wind farms, solar panels, biomass burners, hydroelectric schemes etc. There are no comparisons available for the equivalent quarter last year currently available (see User Guidance). The vast majority of renewable energy applications received in quarter 2 were for single wind turbines (170 out of 193 renewable energy applications received or 88%). The map on page 20 shows the locations of all wind turbines and wind farms which have been approved by Planning between the 1st of July 2011 and the 30th of September 2011.

Section 3 – Performance on processing planning applications

Key performance targets



(Figures in brackets refer to the same period in 2010/11)

Major applications

Target: to process 60% of major applications to decision or withdrawal in 23 weeks

Actual Performance: 40% of major planning applications were decided or withdrawn within the target period in quarter 2 of 2011/12 compared with 64% in the same quarter in 2010/11. 60% of Major planning applications were decided in 35 (21) weeks

Intermediate applications

Target: to process 70% of intermediate applications to decision or withdrawal in 31 weeks

Actual Performance: 71% of intermediate planning applications were decided or withdrawn within the target period in quarter 2 of 2011/12 compared with 78% in the corresponding quarter in 2010/11. 70% of Intermediate planning applications were decided in 30 (25) weeks.

Minor applications

Target: to process 80% of minor applications to decision or withdrawal in 18 weeks

Actual Performance: 62% of minor planning applications were decided or withdrawn within the target period in quarter 2 of 2011/12 compared with 83% in the corresponding quarter in 2010/11. 80% of Minor planning applications were decided in 25 (17) weeks.

PSA targets refer up to 2010/11. Targets for 2011/12 are currently under review

Operational targets - validation and issuing decisions

Validation (*Figures in brackets refer to the same period in 2010/11*)

Target: to validate 85% of all applications within 6 days

Actual Performance: 94% (88%) of all applications were validated within 6 days during quarter 2 of 2011/12

Target: to validate 95% of all applications within 10 days

Actual Performance: 97% (94%) of all applications were validated within 10 days during quarter 2 of 2011/12.

Issuing Decisions (*Figures in brackets refer to the same period in 2010/11*)

Target: to issue 85% of decisions within 2 weeks of last Council consultation

Actual Performance: 77% (91 %) of decisions were issued within 2 weeks of last Council consultation during quarter 2 of 2011/12.

Target: to issue 95% of decisions within 4 weeks of last Council consultation

Actual Performance: 87% (97%) of decisions were issued within 4 weeks of last Council consultation during quarter 2 of 2011/12.

Progress made towards key performance targets – Year to date

Major applications

Target: to process 60% of major applications to decision or withdrawal in 23 weeks.

Actual Performance: 41% of major planning applications were decided or withdrawn within the target period in the first half of 2011/12 compared with 61% in the first half of 2010/11. 60% of Major planning applications were decided in 34 (22) weeks.

Intermediate applications

Target: to process 70% of intermediate applications to decision or withdrawal in 31 weeks.

Actual Performance: 69.8% of intermediate planning applications were decided or withdrawn within the target period in the first half of 2011/12 compared with 80% in the first half of 2010/11. The intermediate PSA target was met in just over 31 weeks (24) weeks.

Minor applications

Target: to process 80% of minor applications to decision or withdrawal in 18 weeks.

Actual Performance: 64% of minor planning applications were decided or withdrawn within the target period in the first half of 2011/12 compared with 85% in the first half of 2010/11. The Minor PSA target was met in 26 (16) weeks.

Progress made towards operational targets – year to date

Validation

Target: to validate 85% of all applications within 6 days.

Actual Performance: 92% (89%) of all applications were validated within 6 days.

Target: to validate 95% of all applications within 10 days.

Actual Performance: 97% (95%) of all applications were validated within 10 days.

Issuing Decisions

Target: to issue 85% of decisions within 2 weeks of last Council consultation.

Actual Performance: 79% (88%) of decisions were issued within 2 weeks of last Council consultation.

Target: to issue 95% of decisions within 4 weeks of last Council consultation.

Actual Performance: 88% (95%) of decisions were issued within 4 weeks of last Council consultation.

Section 4 – Statistical Tables

Table 1 All applications received and decided by type of application ^P
Northern Ireland, July to September 2011, (July to September 2010 in brackets)

| Type of Application | Applications Received ¹ | | Applications Decided ² | | Applications Approved ³ | | Applications Withdrawn | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| | | | | | Number | Percentage | | | | |
| Outline Planning Permission | 371 | (419) | 354 | (632) | 252 | (320) | 71.2 | (50.6) | 49 | (215) |
| Full Planning Permission | 2441 | (3493) | 2969 | (3453) | 2807 | (3212) | 94.5 | (93.0) | 117 | (164) |
| Approval of Reserved Matters | 137 | (181) | 151 | (182) | 151 | (182) | 100.0 | (100.0) | 0 | 0 |
| Consent to Display | 98 | (148) | 100 | (117) | 86 | (96) | 86.0 | (82.1) | 4 | (3) |
| Certificates of Lawful Use or Development for a Proposed Use | 71 | (75) | 50 | (82) | 41 | (73) | 82.0 | - | 5 | (2) |
| Certificates of Lawful Use or Development for an Existing Use | 18 | (27) | 24 | (28) | 20 | (23) | 83.3 | - | 0 | (1) |
| Listed Building Consent | 72 | (69) | 60 | (64) | 58 | (58) | 96.7 | - | 3 | 0 |
| Other Types of Consent ⁴ | 9 | (16) | 12 | (24) | 12 | (23) | 100.0 | - | 1 | (2) |
| All Applications | 3217 | (4428) | 3720 | (4582) | 3427 | (3987) | 92.1 | (87.0) | 179 | (387) |

¹ All applications received in the year may not have had a decision issued within the same time period and applications decided in the year may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures can not be made. Applications received also include withdrawn applications.

² Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications

³ The number and per cent of applications approved is based on the number of decisions issued in the same year.

⁴ Other types of consent include Hazard Substance Consent and Conservation Area Consent

- numbers are too small to calculate meaningful percentages

^P - provisional

Table 2 All applications received and decided by Local Government District^P
Northern Ireland, July to September 2011, (July to September 2010 in brackets)

| Local Government District | Applications Received ¹ | Applications received per thousand population ² | Applications Decided ³ | Applications Approved ⁴ | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | Number | Percentage |
| Antrim | 114 (137) | 3.0 | 140 (147) | 129 (137) | 92.1 (93.2) |
| Ards | 143 (185) | 3.2 | 137 (220) | 125 (215) | 91.2 (97.7) |
| Armagh | 134 (235) | 4.8 | 207 (152) | 182 (147) | 87.9 (96.7) |
| Ballymena | 127 (184) | 3.3 | 125 (184) | 115 (178) | 92.0 (96.7) |
| Ballymoney | 64 (83) | 3.6 | 74 (74) | 73 (72) | - - |
| Banbridge | 103 (142) | 4.7 | 105 (198) | 100 (139) | 95.2 (70.2) |
| Belfast | 311 (413) | 1.3 | 347 (269) | 323 (253) | 93.1 (94.1) |
| Carrickfergus | 39 (65) | 2.3 | 44 (55) | 39 (51) | - - |
| Castlereagh | 79 (113) | 1.9 | 98 (106) | 92 (102) | - (96.2) |
| Coleraine | 129 (165) | 3.5 | 129 (162) | 122 (146) | 94.6 (90.1) |
| Cookstown | 105 (148) | 5.2 | 121 (152) | 117 (114) | 96.7 (75.0) |
| Craigavon | 102 (161) | 2.2 | 162 (179) | 152 (169) | 93.8 (94.4) |
| Derry | 141 (137) | 1.5 | 166 (199) | 159 (178) | 95.8 (89.4) |
| Down | 157 (242) | 4.5 | 177 (195) | 152 (182) | 85.9 (93.3) |
| Dungannon & South Tyrone | 128 (212) | 4.8 | 145 (209) | 129 (189) | 89.0 (90.4) |
| Fermanagh | 207 (222) | 4.3 | 198 (335) | 187 (210) | 94.4 (62.7) |
| Larne | 54 (80) | 2.7 | 58 (107) | 54 (90) | - (84.1) |
| Limavady | 67 (108) | 4.0 | 71 (99) | 63 (89) | - - |
| Lisburn | 193 (247) | 2.9 | 219 (229) | 209 (220) | 95.4 (96.1) |
| Magherafelt | 132 (158) | 4.8 | 129 (171) | 126 (139) | 97.7 (81.3) |
| Moyle | 29 (65) | 4.5 | 49 (77) | 46 (67) | - - |
| Newry and Mourne | 212 (352) | 4.5 | 318 (469) | 289 (346) | 90.9 (73.8) |
| Newtownabbey | 85 (131) | 1.8 | 106 (97) | 101 (92) | 95.3 (94.8) |
| North Down | 112 (138) | 2.1 | 105 (178) | 99 (162) | 94.3 - |
| Omagh | 152 (174) | 3.9 | 168 (202) | 134 (188) | 79.8 (93.1) |
| Strabane | 98 (131) | 3.6 | 122 (117) | 110 (112) | 90.2 (95.7) |
| All Areas | 3217 (4428) | 2.5 | 3720 (4582) | 3427 (3987) | 92.1 (87.0) |

¹ All applications received in the year may not have had a decision issued within the same time period and applications decided in the year may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures can not be made. Applications received also include withdrawn applications.

² Population figures are based on Mid Year Estimates 2010 (NISRA).

³ Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications

⁴ The number and per cent of applications approved is based on the number of decisions issued in the same year.

- numbers are too small to calculate meaningful percentages

^P - provisional

Map 1: Number of planning applications received per head of population (thousands) by Local Government District

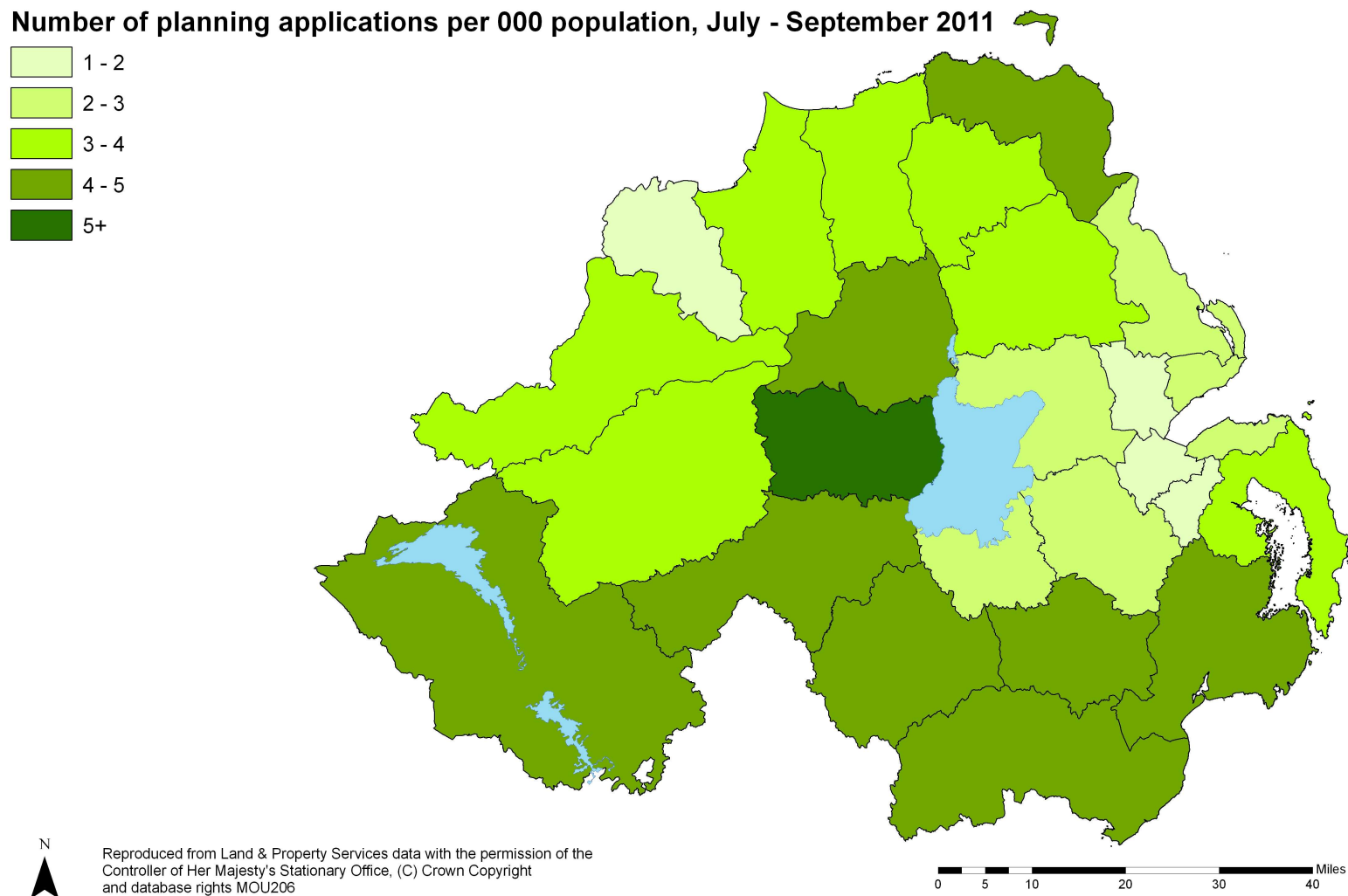


Table 3 All applications received and decided by Assembly Constituency Area ^P
Northern Ireland, July to September 2011, (July to September 2010 in brackets)

| Northern Ireland Assembly Constituency Area | Applications Received ¹ | | Applications Decided ² | | Applications Approved ³ | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Belfast East | 106 | (127) | 133 | (95) | 125 | (92) | 94.0 | - |
| Belfast North | 74 | (90) | 110 | (61) | 102 | (59) | 92.7 | - |
| Belfast South | 176 | (201) | 146 | (124) | 136 | (112) | 93.2 | (90.3) |
| Belfast West | 67 | (78) | 92 | (55) | 89 | (54) | - | - |
| East Antrim | 127 | (172) | 142 | (184) | 131 | (163) | 92.3 | (88.6) |
| East Londonderry | 217 | (273) | 221 | (261) | 204 | (235) | 92.3 | (90.0) |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 307 | (372) | 308 | (474) | 283 | (332) | 91.9 | (70.0) |
| Foyle | 118 | (137) | 144 | (199) | 139 | (178) | 96.5 | (89.4) |
| Lagan Valley | 182 | (281) | 206 | (281) | 198 | (259) | 96.1 | (92.2) |
| Mid Ulster | 269 | (368) | 292 | (393) | 282 | (320) | 96.6 | (81.4) |
| Newry and Armagh | 239 | (385) | 384 | (378) | 344 | (311) | 89.6 | (82.3) |
| North Antrim | 214 | (332) | 237 | (335) | 222 | (317) | 93.7 | (94.6) |
| North Down | 115 | (164) | 120 | (215) | 114 | (199) | 95.0 | (92.6) |
| South Antrim | 185 | (230) | 212 | (215) | 197 | (200) | 92.9 | (93.0) |
| South Down | 268 | (459) | 318 | (486) | 285 | (380) | 89.6 | (78.2) |
| Strangford | 167 | (248) | 178 | (268) | 156 | (260) | 87.6 | (97.0) |
| Upper Bann | 136 | (206) | 188 | (239) | 177 | (216) | 94.1 | (90.4) |
| West Tyrone | 250 | (305) | 289 | (319) | 243 | (300) | 84.1 | (94.0) |
| All Areas | 3217 | (4428) | 3720 | (4582) | 3427 | (3987) | 92.1 | (87.0) |

¹ All applications received in the year may not have had a decision issued within the same time period and applications decided in the year may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures can not be made. Applications received also include withdrawn applications.

² Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications

³ The number and per cent of applications approved is based on the number of decisions issued in the same year.

- numbers are too small to calculate meaningful percentages

^P - provisional

Table 4 All applications received and decided by type of development ^P
Northern Ireland, July to September 2011, (July to September 2010 in brackets)

| Type of Development ⁵ | Applications Received ¹ | | Applications Decided ² | | Applications Approved ³ | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Number | | Percentage | |
| Agricultural | 44 | (76) | 74 | (79) | 59 | (64) | - | - |
| Commercial | 143 | (348) | 144 | (251) | 139 | (229) | 96.5 | (91.2) |
| Government and Civic | 538 | (558) | 453 | (525) | 425 | (512) | 93.8 | (97.5) |
| Industrial | 24 | (82) | 42 | (70) | 40 | (64) | - | - |
| Mixed Use ⁴ | 27 | (26) | 38 | (33) | 34 | (31) | - | - |
| Residential | 1868 | (3019) | 2334 | (3346) | 2132 | (2844) | 91.3 | (85.0) |
| Other | 573 | (319) | 635 | (278) | 598 | (243) | 94.2 | (87.4) |
| All Applications | 3217 | (4428) | 3720 | (4582) | 3427 | (3987) | 92.1 | (87.0) |

¹ All applications received in the year may not have had a decision issued within the same time period and applications decided in the year may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures can not be made. Applications received also include withdrawn applications.

² Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications

³ The number and per cent of applications approved is based on the number of decisions issued in the same year.

⁴ Mixed Use applications will include some residential units

⁵ Residential applications include housing, holiday chalets, sheltered housing, mobile homes, caravans, domestic extensions and residential or nursing homes. Commercial types include shops, car parks, hotels and restaurants, offices and motor trade facilities. Industrial types include quarries, warehousing and fuel depots. Government and civic types include police stations, civic amenity sites, education and medical establishments, utilities and recreational facilities.

- numbers are too small to calculate meaningful percentages

^P - provisional

Table 5 All applications received and decided for residential¹ developments in urban and rural areas by type of application^P
Northern Ireland, July to September 2011, (July to September 2010 in brackets)

| Type of Development | Applications Received ² | | Applications Decided ³ | | Applications Approved ⁴ | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Outline Planning Permission | 51 | (65) | 41 | (52) | 37 | (41) | - | - |
| Full Planning Permission | 667 | (1153) | 872 | (1196) | 840 | (1146) | 96.3 | (95.8) |
| Applications in Urban Areas | 19 | (29) | 22 | (32) | 22 | (32) | - | - |
| Approval of Reserved Matters | 33 | (38) | 34 | (33) | 29 | (32) | - | - |
| Certificates of Lawful Use or Development | 1 | (16) | 0 | (14) | 0 | (13) | N/A | - |
| Other Types of Consents ⁵ | | | | | | | | |
| All residential applications in Urban Areas | 771 | (1301) | 969 | (1327) | 928 | (1264) | 95.8 | (95.3) |
| Outline Planning Permission | 310 | (345) | 301 | (567) | 206 | (268) | 68.4 | (47.3) |
| Full Planning Permission | 661 | (1207) | 933 | (1278) | 870 | (1144) | 93.2 | (89.5) |
| Applications in Rural Areas | 116 | (146) | 126 | (150) | 126 | (150) | 100.0 | (100.0) |
| Approval of Reserved Matters | 10 | (13) | 5 | (15) | 2 | (10) | - | - |
| Certificates of Lawful Use or Development | 0 | (7) | 0 | (9) | 0 | (8) | N/A | - |
| Other Types of Consents ⁵ | | | | | | | | |
| All residential applications in Rural Areas | 1097 | (1718) | 1365 | (2019) | 1204 | (1580) | 88.2 | (78.3) |
| All Residential Applications in Northern Ireland | 1868 | (3019) | 2334 | (3346) | 2132 | (2844) | 91.3 | (85.0) |

¹ Residential applications include housing, holiday chalets, sheltered housing, mobile homes, caravans, domestic extensions and residential or nursing homes. Commercial types include shops, car parks, hotels and restaurants, offices and motor trade facilities. Industrial types include quarries, warehousing and fuel depots. Government and civic types include police stations, civic amenity sites, education and medical establishments, utilities and recreational facilities.

² All applications received in the year may not have had a decision issued within the same time period and applications decided in the year may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures can not be made. Applications received also include withdrawn applications.

³ Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications

⁴ The number and per cent of applications approved is based on the number of decisions issued in the same year.

⁵ Other types of consent include Consent to Display, Listed Building Consent, Hazard Substance Consent and Conservation Area Consent

- numbers are too small to calculate meaningful percentages

^P - provisional

Table 6 All applications received and decided for residential ¹ developments in urban and rural areas by type of development ^P

Northern Ireland, July to September 2011, (July to September 2010 in brackets)

| Location | Type of Development | Applications Received ² | | Applications Decided ³ | | Applications Approved ⁴ | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | Number | | Percentage | |
| Applications in urban areas | New single dwellings | 76 | (104) | 81 | (84) | 70 | (68) | - | - |
| | Replacement single dwellings | 15 | (23) | 13 | (31) | 13 | (30) | - | - |
| | Domestic alterations and extensions | 530 | (846) | 663 | (862) | 647 | (849) | 97.6 | (98.5) |
| Applications in rural areas | New single dwellings | 583 | (725) | 749 | (957) | 632 | (626) | 84.4 | (65.4) |
| | Replacement single dwellings | 168 | (254) | 200 | (341) | 178 | (288) | 89.0 | (84.5) |
| | Domestic alterations and extensions | 201 | (293) | 231 | (311) | 227 | (297) | 98.3 | (95.5) |
| Applications in urban and rural areas | Housing Developments ⁵ | 131 | (239) | 186 | (277) | 166 | (242) | 89.2 | (87.4) |
| | Other ⁶ | 164 | (535) | 211 | (483) | 199 | (444) | 94.3 | (91.9) |
| All Residential Applications in Northern Ireland | | 1868 | (3019) | 2334 | (3346) | 2132 | (2844) | 91.3 | (85.0) |

¹ Residential applications include housing, holiday chalets, sheltered housing, mobile homes, caravans, domestic extensions and residential or nursing homes.

² All applications received in the year may not have had a decision issued within the same time period and applications decided in the year may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures can not be made. Applications received also include withdrawn applications.

³ Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications

⁴ The number and per cent of applications approved is based on the number of decisions issued in the same year.

⁵ Housing developments also include apartments.

⁶ Other includes temporary buildings, change of use and renewal of planning permissions.

- numbers are too small to calculate meaningful percentages

^P - provisional

Table 7 All Renewable Energy¹ applications received and decided either commercial or non-commercial² by type of development^P
Northern Ireland, July to September 2011, (data not available 2010/11)

| Location | Type of Development | Applications Received ³ | Applications Decided ⁴ | Applications Approved ⁵ |
|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Commercial applications | Single wind turbine | 55 | 2 | 2 |
| | Wind farm | 11 | 3 | 3 |
| | Hydroelectricity | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | Solar panels | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Total | 68 | 7 | 7 |
| Non-commercial applications | Single wind turbine | 115 | 62 | 48 |
| | Hydroelectricity | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | Solar panels | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | Other | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 125 | 70 | 56 |
| All Renewable Energy Apps in Northern Ireland | | 193 | 77 | 63 |

¹ Renewable energy applications include wind farms, single wind turbines, solar panels, hydroelectric applications.

² Commercial applications produce energy to sell back to the National grid. Non-commercial applications produce energy to offset energy costs.

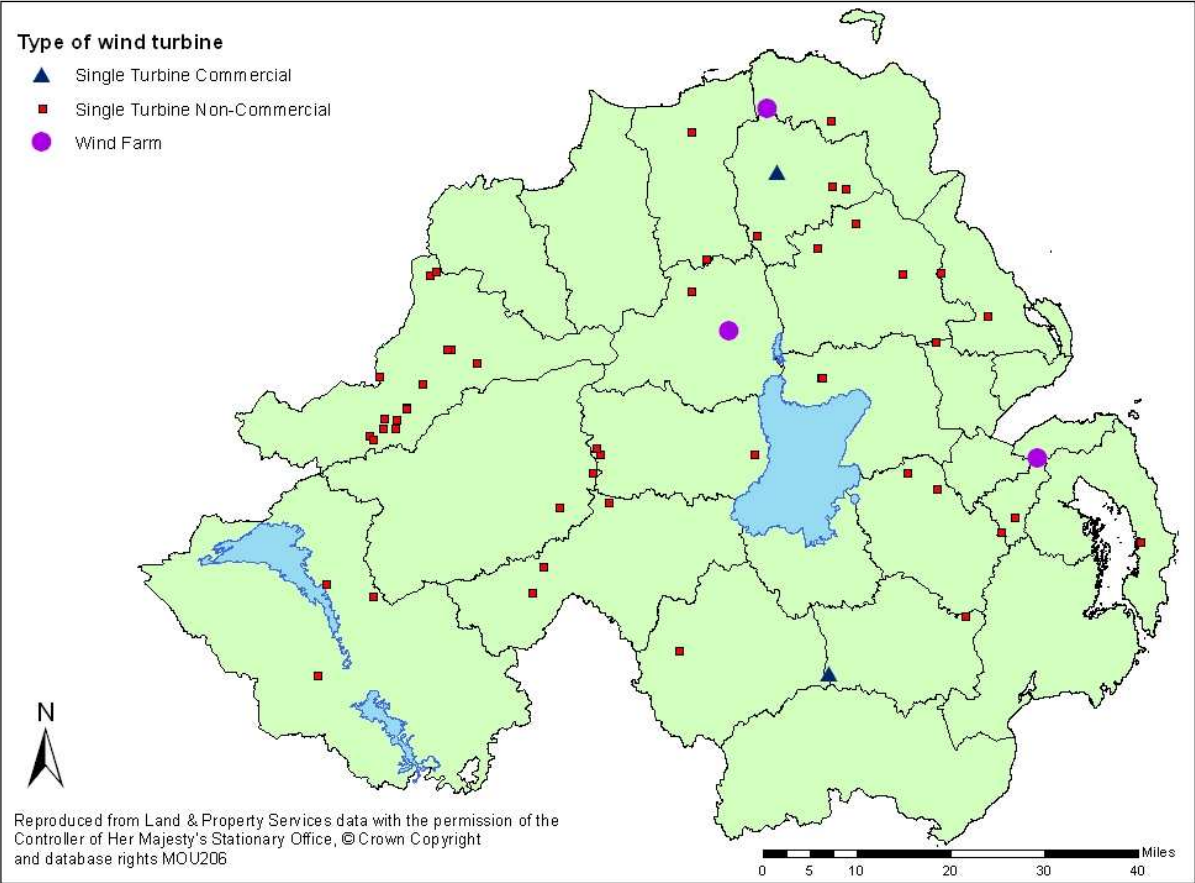
³ All applications received in the year may not have had a decision issued within the same time period and applications decided in the year may not have been received in the same time period. Therefore direct comparisons between the figures can not be made. Applications received also include withdrawn

⁴ Applications decided do not include withdrawn applications

⁵ The number and per cent of applications approved is based on the number of decisions issued in the same year.

^P - provisional

Map 2: Location of wind farms and wind turbines approved – July to September 2011



Section 5 – User Guidance

Notes on data source

The records of all applications from 1 July to 30 September 2011 were transferred in November 2011 from a live database and inspected for consistency in coding. The comparative figures from 2010/11 were transferred from a frozen database in November 2010.

Data is validated by looking for coding anomalies and inconsistencies in classification or processing times. As such the data is considered to be very good.

Users should note that Planning introduced a new IT system last year. This system allows for the broader classification of a planning proposal and as such brings improvement to the identification of planning application type and further enhances the quality of the data.

Planning is currently engaged in an exercise to cleanse and enhance historical data in relation to Renewable Energy applications. There were a range of application coding categories under which such applications could have been recorded under the old system making some difficult to identify. Once this exercise has been completed, it will be possible in future to make comparisons with historic applications and examine trends.

Quarterly statistics are provisional. Final figures for 2011/12 will be published in the 2011/12 annual report.

Notes on categories and speed of decisions

Planning decisions are categorised as major, intermediate and minor, depending on the type of land use. Intermediate applications, which are predominantly single dwellings, usually take the longest number of weeks for a decision to be reached. The majority of major applications are multiple housing, commercial and government and civic types of development. Minor applications, which are mainly residential alterations and extensions, take the least number of weeks for a decision to be reached. A new IT system was introduced last year and as such there have been some changes to whether or not an application is major, intermediate, or minor. However the classifications are largely comparable as the number of cases affected is minimal.

The time taken to process a decision is calculated from the date on which an application is deemed valid to the date on which the decision is issued. The average processing time is the median.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Types of Application

A number of different types of application are received by Planning Service and are categorized into the following groups:

- **Outline permission**

An application for outline planning permission can be used to ascertain whether a proposed development is acceptable in principle. This usually means that detailed drawings are not needed. However the Planning Service can, in certain circumstances, require the submission of additional information, or insist that an application for full planning permission be submitted.

- **Full permission**

A full planning application requires the submission of all details of the proposal. This type of application would be appropriate, for example, if a change of use of land or buildings is proposed.

- **Approval of Reserved Matters**

If outline permission is granted, a subsequent permission relating to the siting, design, external appearance, means of access and landscaping details known as 'reserved matters' will be required before building work can commence. The reserved matter application must be consistent with the outline permission and take into account any conditions that have been given in the original permission. If the development proposal changes, it may be necessary to start again with a fresh application.

- **Consent to Display**

Advertisement consent is normally required to display an advertisement particularly large signs and illuminated adverts.

- **Listed Building Consent**

Works that would affect the character of a listed building need listed building consent. This includes work to the internal or external fabric of the building or any demolition. It should be noted that the requirement for Listed Building Consent is in addition to any requirement for planning permission.

- **Conservation Area Consent**

Works that would entail the full or partial demolition of a non-listed building in a conservation area need conservation area consent. It should be noted that the

requirement for Conservation Area Consent may be in addition to any requirement for planning permission.

- **Certificates of Lawful Use or Development (Lawful Development Certificates)**

The Planning Service will issue a Certificate of Lawful Use or Development if it is satisfied that a particular development is lawful within the provisions of planning legislation. Examples include proposed extensions, which fall within the provisions of the Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 for permitted development and do not require planning permission, or uses that have become lawful due to the length of time they have been in existence.

- **Hazardous Substances Consent**

The Planning (Control of Major-Accident Hazards) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 are concerned with the storage and use of hazardous substances which could, in quantities at or above specified limits, present a major off-site risk. Hazardous Substances Consent ensures that hazardous substances can be kept or used in significant amounts only after Planning Service has had the opportunity to assess the degree of risk arising to persons in the surrounding area, and to the environment.

Appendix 2 – Types of Development Proposal

The applications for planning permissions received and decided in quarter 2 2011/12 comprise a wide variety of types of development.

These include:

- **Residential** – Housing developments (incorporating a mixture of house types and apartments), purpose built apartment developments, sheltered housing schemes, single dwellings including dwellings on farms, holiday chalets, caravans and mobile homes, alteration, extension or improvement of existing dwellings, residential homes or nursing homes, hotels or motels.
- **Industrial and Manufacturing** – Factories, warehousing, light and general industrial floorspace, quarries, sand and gravel extraction and fuel depots.
- **Commercial** – Food supermarkets and superstores, non food retailing, major retail developments exceeding 1000 sq m, alterations, extensions and improvements to buildings used for retailing, retail warehouses, warehouse clubs, post offices, factory outlets, petrol stations, offices, purpose built office developments, restaurants, car parking, and motor vehicle display, hire, repair or sale.
- **Mixed Use** – Application for mixed use buildings or mixed use developments incorporated a mix of complementary uses, such as residential, retailing, offices, community and leisure uses, within a building, buildings or on a development site.
- **Change of Use** – Application for a change in the use of land or buildings including changes to residential, retailing, offices, community or leisure uses.
- **Government and Civic** – Police stations, coastguard stations, civic amenity sites, recycling centres, schools and colleges, hospitals, clinics, other medical establishments including surgeries and dental practices. “Hard infrastructure” facilities such as roads, water mains, water treatment works, trunk sewers, waste water treatment works and natural gas pipelines. Recreational facilities including indoor and outdoor sports facilities, and swimming pools.
- **Agricultural** – Agricultural buildings including buildings or structures for the storage of slurry and/or manure, agricultural glasshouses, stables and livery yards and infilling of land for agricultural purposes.
- **Other types of development** – Amendments to existing applications and miscellaneous applications which include satellite dishes, cash dispensers, ancient monuments, and access fences and walls.
- **Renewable Energy** – Renewable energy applications include wind turbines, wind farms, solar panels, biomass burners, hydroelectric schemes etc.

Appendix 3 - Key Performance Targets

There are three key performance targets for the time take to process a planning application to decision or withdrawal. These are as follows:

- 60% of Major planning applications processed in 23 weeks;
- 70% of Intermediate planning applications processed in 31 Weeks; and
- 80% of Minor planning applications processed in 18 Weeks

In addition, operational targets for validating applications and issuing decisions are as follows:

- 85% of all applications to be validated within 6 days;
- 95% of all applications to be validated within 10 days;
- 85% of decisions to issue within 2 weeks of last Council consultation;
- 95% of decisions to issue within 4 weeks of last Council consultation.

Appendix 4 - Contact points for further information

Development management statistics

An electronic version of this Quarterly planning statistics publication is available at

Annual Statistical reports are available at

<http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/tools/about-statistics/common-eplanning-stats-publications.htm>

Enquiries about the figures in this publication or requests for extracts of the data should be addressed to:

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The Analytical Services Team

The Citizen's Charter for Northern Ireland seeks to ensure that the public are aware of the officials who are involved in the preparation of the Statistical Publication.

The officers responsible for the production of the Annual Statistical Publication are:

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