

Northern Ireland Planning Statistics First quarter 2026/27 infographic alternative text.

- There were 2,390 planning applications received during the first quarter of 2026/27; a decrease of one percent from the previous quarter and similar to the same period a year earlier. This comprised of 2,356 local, 33 major and one regionally significant planning application.
- In the first quarter of 2026/27, 2,295 planning applications were decided, an increase of 2.5 percent from the previous quarter and one percent on the same period a year earlier. Decisions were issued on 2,250 local and 45 major applications during the most recent quarter.
- The average processing time for local applications brought to a decision or withdrawal during the first three months of 2026/27 was 20.0 weeks across all councils. This exceeds the 15 week target and represents an increase from the average processing time reported for the same period a year earlier (19.8 weeks). Three of the 11 councils were within the 15 week target after the first three months of 2026/27.
- The average processing time for major applications brought to a decision or withdrawal during the first three months of 2026/27 was 26.1 weeks across all councils. This meets the 30 week target and represents a decrease of 3.9 weeks from the average processing time reported for the same period a year earlier (30.0 weeks).
- Across councils 76.2% of enforcement cases were concluded within 39 weeks during the first three months of 2026/27, meeting the 70% target. This represents an increase of 4 percent from the rate recorded for the same period in 2025/26 (72.2%). Individually, seven of the 11 councils were meeting the 70% target after the first three months of 2026/27.

