

**From:** [Foi Enquiries](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EIR-17-1594 - Major Housing Development  
**Date:** 16 November 2017 14:54:59  
**Attachments:** [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 30 October 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

**The average decision time for a major housing development planning application for each financial year since 1999 -2000, including 2016-2017? This would include residential developments of over 4 properties.**

The local authority does not hold information for any financial year for average decision times for all housing developments of over 4 properties. A scale of housing development between 4 units and 50 units is not classed as "major" by the Scottish Government. The reporting is based on Major and Local Housing developments as detailed in the following paragraph.

Information on average determination times for planning "Major Housing Applications" ie. for over 49 residential units and for "Housing Local" applications ie one or more residential units (as defined in the Hierarchy of Developments Regulations) for all planning authorities is available on the Scottish Government website from 2006 onwards when the categories of Major and Local Development were first introduced by the Regulations. These figures can be found at the following web pages:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Planning/Publications>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Planning/prevbulletins>

(NB. These figures are also referred to as Dwellings Major and Minor in some of the tables)

An estimate of average times for all housing developments over 4 units but less than 50 units is much more complicated and time consuming but can be worked out by carrying out web searches using the Advanced Search facility on the Council's Public Website

<https://publicaccess.aberdeencity.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=advanced>

For post 2006 developments the search would use development type "Housing Local". Each would have to be looked at individually to establish the year of determination and the determination time and whether it fell above or below the 4 unit threshold - then the determination times of the residual applications could be averaged out.

Before 2006 the search would be even more time consuming since the applications could only be picked up by searching for key words such as "houses", "flats" or "residential" and each looked at individually to determine whether it met the criteria before the calculation could be carried out on the residual applications.

I hope this information is helpful but do not hesitate to contact Daniel Lewis - Development

Management Manager on 01224 522250

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **The average decision time for a major housing development planning application for each financial year since 1999 -2000, including 2016-2017? This would include residential developments of over 4 properties** as it is not held by the Council. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Regulation 10(4)(a) - Information Not Held - of the EIRs, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it. ACC is required by Regulation 10(1)(b) of the EIRs to inform you as to why in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining this exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information to you. ACC is satisfied that it does not hold this information and considers that, as there is no information held, the public interest lies with the exception.

As stated above, this information could possibly be worked out by using the information publicly available through our online portal but it is considered by ACC to a significant amount of work to undertake in response to this request. There is no business or legislative requirement for ACC to report on the average decision time for housing development planning applications for each financial year since 1999 -2000, including residential developments of over 4 properties and it would require an officer checking through every planning application, using search filters where possible, to extract and report the information. This would detrimentally impact on their other work.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster  
Information Compliance Officer

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST**

As the information which you requested is environmental information, as defined under Regulation 2(1) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the EIRs), ACC considered that it was exempt from release through FOISA, and must therefore give you notice that we are refusing your request under Section 39(2) of FOISA (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002). However, you have a separate right to access the information which you have requested under Regulation 5 of the EIRs, under which ACC has handled your request. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under the EIRs.

Information Compliance Team  
Customer Service  
Corporate Governance  
Aberdeen City Council  
3rd Floor North  
Business Hub 17  
Marischal College  
Broad Street

ABERDEEN AB10 1AQ

[foienquiries@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:foienquiries@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Tel 03000 200 292

\*03000 numbers are free to call if you have 'free minutes' included in your mobile call plan.  
Calls from BT landlines will be charged at the local call rate of 10.24p per minute (the same as 01224s).

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)