



The Planning
Inspectorate

Enforcement Casework at PINS

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The 2013/14 Appeal Position at PINS (all appeals)

Casework statistics

Number of **all appeals made in 2013/14** =
17,049

Number of **all appeals determined in 2013/14** =
15,982



The 2013/14 Appeal Position at PINS (enforcement appeals)

Casework statistics

Number of **Enforcement Notices issued in
2013/14 = 4,698**

Number of **Enf & LDC appeals made in 2013/14
= 2,624**

Number of **Enf & LDC appeals determined in
2013/14 = 2,097**

Results: notices **upheld = 46%**, **varied = 28%**,
quashed = 26%



The 2013/14 Appeal Position at PINS (enforcement appeals)

Casework statistics: procedures

Number of **Enf & LDC appeals** that were **Inquiries**
= **12%**

Number of **Enf & LDC appeals** that were **Hearings**
= **11%**

Number of **Enf & LDC appeals** that were **Written
Reps** = **77%**



The Enforcement Appeal Position at PINS (2013/14)

Enforcement Casework

Internal targets

Inquiries 80% in 43 weeks

Hearings 80% in 33 weeks

Written reps 80% in 32 weeks

2013/14 performance

80% in 43 weeks (Av 35)

80% in 33 weeks (Av 29)

75% in 32 weeks (Av 30)



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The Current Enforcement Appeal Position at PINS

Inquiries in PINS: 230 (1,500 Inspector days?)

Hearings in PINS: 148 (600 Inspector days?)

Written reps in PINS: 1,305 (341 unstarted)
(2,000 Inspector days?)

Unstarted Appeals in PINS: 392 (all procedures)



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Where we were



Where we were

Targets rarely noticed – all casework delivered well before time

Large cohort of experienced enforcement inspectors

Regular intakes from s78 (planning) inspectors

Enforcement Inspectors from a variety of backgrounds – planners, architects, solicitors, barristers, etc

Terrific Esprit-de-corps

Great job satisfaction

Great pride in the job



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Where are we now?



Where are we now?

The highly flexible and highly trained workforce in enforcement has led to:

- Temporary move of enforcement Inspectors to National Infrastructure to help meet statutory targets
- Temporary move of enforcement Inspectors to Local Plans to help meet statutory targets and government policy
- Temporary move of enforcement Inspectors to s78 area to help deal with priority casework (eg HAS, Planning Guarantee) to meet Ministerial targets
- Occasional use of highly qualified enforcement Inspectors eg architects on high level/high profile s78 casework



Where are we now? (cont)

- Use of enforcement Inspectors to hold major inquiries in Transport & Works Act and Highways Act cases
- Use of enforcement Inspectors to train new enforcement Inspectors
- Use of enforcement Inspectors to write legal updates and training manuals for existing and new enforcement Inspectors
- Use of enforcement Inspectors to monitor enforcement High Court Challenges and Post-decision correspondence
- Loss of Inspectors due to retirement and reduced hours



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Where are we going?



Where are we going?

The pressures on PINS to meet a number of Ministerial targets has led to some perverse behaviours across the business which we are trying to address in enforcement by:

- Training some existing s78 Inspectors to carry out enforcement casework, but working entirely digitally
- Looking at allocating their casework very differently - “smarter charting” - perhaps based on LPAs, perhaps working longer term with LPAs with a large backlog, maybe on similar casework types eg beds in sheds
- Carrying out a Triage type assessment of all WR cases to see if there are better methods of determining them



Where are we going? (cont)

- More use of Decision Officers (on (f) and (g) with no SV)
- Training existing Planning Officers to undertake (a), (f) and (g) casework
- Determining whether an SV is needed – without an SV more cases can be dealt with by each Inspector
- Using electronic Enforcement Notices to copy/attach to the decision to save time
- Looking at pre-loading decisions with the key data in the bullets
- We are not looking to reduce the reasoning in decisions - there is still a need for a robust and clear decision



Where are we going? (cont)

- Extending the Casework Improvement processes across enforcement
- Looking at grouping a number of SVs together to make several days of visits and then a longer period of reporting
- Looking at working nearer to home
- More training for specialist areas of enforcement eg waste, minerals, listed buildings etc so more specialist enforcement Inspectors available
- Building a succession plan so that we get back to regular training of new intakes of enforcement Inspectors



Where are we going? (cont)

- Looking at the use of the new Band 1 Inspectors who have joined us with an enforcement background to fast-track them into enforcement casework

Objectives:

- to build a flexible workforce across PINS, and no longer just in enforcement
- To deliver a better service to our customers, at less cost



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Any questions?