



REQUEST	16810	RESPONSE
	<p>Please consider this a freedom of information request in order to gain the required information regarding the planning applications your authority have received since the introduction of mandatory biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Please only include full planning applications - not applications for tree works or discharge of condition applications, for example.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How many planning applications have been received between the 12th February 2024 and but prior to 2nd April 2024?</li> <li>2. Of these applications, how many remain invalid?</li> <li>3. Of the invalid applications, how many are due to the introduction of biodiversity net gain provisions as part of the validation process?</li> <li>4. Of the validated planning applications, how many triggered the requirement to provide mandatory biodiversity net gain?</li> <li>5. How many planning applications have been received since 2nd April 2024?</li> <li>6. Of these, how many remain invalid?</li> <li>7. Of those valid applications, how many have met the following exemption criteria for biodiversity net gain:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Householder development</li><li>ii. Self-build and/or custom build development</li><li>iii. Application for biodiversity gain site</li><li>iv. HS2 related application</li><li>v. De minimis – a development which does not impact a priority habitat and impacts less than: 25metres<sup>2</sup> of on-site habitat or 5metres of on-site linear habitats (e.g. hedgerows).</li></ol></li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. This information is available to view on the Council's website by using the following link: <a href="https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/">https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/</a></li> <li>2. 0</li> <li>3. 6</li> <li>4. This information is available to view on the Council's website by using the following link: <a href="https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/">https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/</a></li> <li>5. This information is available to view on the Council's website by using the following link: <a href="https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/">https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/</a></li> <li>6. 48</li> <li>7. This information is available to view on the Council's website by using the following link: <a href="https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/">https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/</a></li></ol> <p>For the requestor's information, and in general terms, applications may only meet the exemption criteria once an assessment of the application has been completed, i.e. if they are</p>

Please include the number of applications which stated each reason.

8. Of the applications where BNG is required, how many have been determined? Please include the numbers of applications:
- i. Where planning permission has been approved.
  - ii. Where planning permission has been refused.

9. In your opinion how much has BNG impacted on the validation of planning applications? (On a scale from 1-10, 1-Low, 10-High).

10. Does your authority have any provisions in place to aid agents / applicants with application validation processes?

11. Does your authority have any processes in place to help with the delivery of BNG? E.g. land bank sites.

12. Has your authority hired a 'specialist' in order to aid with the determination of BNG relevant applications?

validated on the basis of a proposed exemption, an assessment may result in an exemption being applicable, and vice versa.

8. This information is available to view on the Council's website by using the following link:

<https://planning.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Again, for the requestor's information, and in general terms, applications may only require BNG provision once an assessment of the application has been completed, so it may not be clear, on open applications, if BNG is required until an application has been fully assessed and determined.

9. This question is seeking an opinion and not the disclosure of recorded information, and so is outside the scope of the FOI or EIR legislation.

10. Wigan Council aims to determine planning applications as efficiently as possible. To help with this we have recently updated our planning application Validation Checklist. In preparing it we have had regard to article 11(3)(c) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015, and to paragraph 44 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Validation Checklist can be viewed in full on the Council's website at the following link:

[Validation Checklist for Planning Applications \(wigan.gov.uk\)](https://www.wigan.gov.uk/online-applications/validation-checklist)

11. No.

12. Wigan Council, along with other Greater Manchester Authorities, consult with the Greater Manchester Ecology Unity for support on BNG relevant planning applications (amongst other matters).