



REQUEST 18818

I write to request information regarding the council's expenditure on planning appeals relating to residential-led developments.

Please provide the following information for each of the financial years (a) 2022/23, (b) 2023/24, and (c) 2024/25:

1. The total number of appeals lodged against decisions relating to residential-led planning applications, and the total number of residential units involved in these appeals.
2. The number of appeals that resulted in planning permission being granted, and the total number of residential units approved as a result of such appeals.
3. The total amount of money spent by the council on legal advice, representation, and any other costs incurred in defending planning appeals.

RESPONSE

1 and 2. This information is accessible at the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Website ([Case Search](#)); search using Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council in the Local Planning Authority Field.

3.

2022/23 = £42,191 excluding VAT.
2023/24 = £0
2024/25 = £0

To note: The figures provided relate solely to external expenditure, such as legal advice, representation, and specialist consultants. They do not include internal costs, which are substantial. In particular, officer time spent preparing and managing appeals represents the largest element of the Council's resource commitment in this area, but these costs have not been quantified. Similarly, the use of Council facilities for hearings and inquiries, often the most technologically equipped rooms available to meet the requirements of such proceedings, and any necessary printing has not been costed for the purposes of this response.

4. The total amount paid by the council to appellants in respect of costs awarded against the authority in planning appeal cases.

4.
2022/23 = £0
2023/24 = £0
2024/25 = £0

5. Of the total expenditure identified in (3), please specify how much related to appeals that were subsequently allowed (i.e. where permission was granted on appeal).

5. The total sum is £42,191 excluding VAT.

6. The number of appeals that were made against an officer recommendation for approval?

6. As per the response to Q1 of this request, all planning appeals lodged within the Borough, and during the periods requested, are available to view on PINS' website at the above link.

Where a decision on a planning application is to be made by Planning Committee, Officers present their recommendation to the members.

Committee Agendas, Documents and Minutes of meetings where these recommendations are set out are available to view on the Council's website at the following link:

[Browse meetings - Planning Committee](#)