



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

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**From the Permanent Secretary
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Your reference:
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Dear Chair

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE: NIAO REPORT ON PLANNING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you for your letter dated 22 February seeking additional information following our attendance at the Public Accounts Committee on 10 February 2022. My apologies also for slightly missing the Committee's deadline.

The Committee has asked for further detail on the numbers of applications called-in by the Department and I have provided at Annex 1 a full list. In relation to the question on which 'categories' or reasons were used to call in applications, paragraphs 5.59 and 5.60 of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) set out the position as follows:

- 5.59 The Department has powers to direct that certain applications be referred to it rather than being dealt with by councils. This provides a necessary safeguard where there are applications that raise issues of such importance that their impact is considered to extend to a sub-regional or regional level. It is anticipated that these powers would only be used in exceptional circumstances as it is recognised that councils are best placed to deal with the vast majority of applications within their own council areas.*
- 5.60 In addition to the general power to call-in a planning application, councils are required to notify the Department in instances where they propose to grant planning permission for certain types of development as set out in a direction. These could include, for example, a major development application which would significantly prejudice the implementation of the LDP objectives and policies or where councils have an interest in the land."*

The Committee may find it helpful to note that Development Management Practice Note (DMPN) 13 'Notification and Call-In' also provides good practice guidance on the 'call in' procedures. The DMPN emphasises that, in practice, applications will be called in by exception: *"There may be circumstances where the proposed development raises issues of such importance that they could be considered to have a significant regional impact, regardless of falling below the threshold for regionally significant development, or it may be considered the Department is a more appropriate authority to determine the application."*

Each application which has been called in has been based on these policy tests and considerations, subject to the individual characteristics and circumstances in each case.

Call in outcomes

The Committee has also asked about the numbers of notifications not to proceed that have been issued by the Department and the subsequent call in rates and timescales.

The reference to notifications has been interpreted to mean Article 17 'holding' directions, section 89(2) or section 105(6) 'holding' notifications, as the case may be for individual applications.

There has been a total of 63 Article 17 'holding' directions, section 89(2)(b) and section 105(6) 'holding' notifications, issued by the Department in relation to various planning applications.

Of these, 16 resulted in a planning application being referred (called-in) by the Department for determination and 41 were not called-in, which allowed a council to progress an application at council level. The time taken to process these 'holding' directions or notifications in the case of each planning application is shown in the two tables at Annex 2. At present, the Department has 6 applications currently under consideration that are subject to a holding direction. The issuing of a 'holding' direction or a 'holding' notification does not prevent a council from continuing to process a planning application up to the point of making a decision but it does prevent it issuing one.

Further details have been presented for the Committee in the two tables provided as Annex 2 to this letter.

The Local Development Plan (LDP) process

The Committee has asked for information on the LDP process. It might be useful to explain at the outset that it is a legislative requirement that a council submit plan

documents to the Department's Plan Oversight team, when the council believes the documents are ready for Independent Examination.

The legislation also requires that the recommendations made by the Independent Examiner must be considered by the Department which makes the decision either: to direct a council to adopt the plan document as originally prepared; to adopt it with such modifications as may be specified in the direction; or to withdraw the development plan document.

As the Committee will be aware, the role of the Independent Examination is to consider soundness, and a key test of plan documents is whether relevant legislative and procedural tasks have been completed, and that policies and allocations are realistic and appropriate, having considered the relevant alternatives, and are founded on a robust evidence base.

In respect of the submission of plan documents, upon receipt of the relevant documentation the Department reviews the submission material to ensure that the relevant legislative procedures have been completed and that all relevant supporting evidence has been submitted to allow the IE to proceed. The Department has established internal procedures to inform its consideration of these matters and ensure that the wider Planning Group has input into decision-making. This is a significant exercise as the evidence base is frequently extensive and complex; however, it guards against causing an Independent Examination into a plan that is not ready for examination; for example, if key supporting evidence is absent or incomplete. Such a scenario, which has not occurred to date, would give rise to nugatory and abortive work by the PAC, creating resource pressures that may impact on the IE timescales of other submitted plans.

It is important to note that this work does not pre-empt the Independent Examination process but is nevertheless an important step to ensuring the plan is in satisfactory state for examination. The Department is of the opinion that this is an important and worthwhile step in the process.

Following the Independent Examination and in relation to the receipt of the IE report, the role of the Department is as set out in the legislation. This gives rise to a number of significant differences from other jurisdictions and therefore direct comparisons are unfortunately not possible. First, it is worth noting that the Department is not bound by the examiners recommendations unlike, for example, England and Wales, where the report of the Independent Examiner is issued directly to, and is binding upon, the council. The Department's role is also not confined to considering issues of procedural compliance and soundness but may also extend to other considerations, including whether to exercise ministerial powers of intervention.

It is also important to note that in the case of the IE report on Belfast City Council's draft Plan Strategy, the nature of the recommendations made by the Examiners raised new legal and procedural issues that required consideration by the Department before the Direction could issue. It is also important to bear in mind that the legislation requires that the decision on how to respond to the IE report is taken by a body (the Department) that did not draft the plan document. Therefore, compliance with the legislative duty to consider the recommendations made by the Commissioner requires the Department to draw upon the knowledge and experience gained from its participation in the earlier stages of plan-preparation and IE hearings. Drawing together this learning and applying it to the recommendations contained in the IE report requires in-depth consideration, which takes time.

While the councils are plan-makers, and the PAC provide IE reports which contain recommendations, the Department is the ultimate decision-maker with responsibility for directing the council in relation to adoption of the plan document. This step in the decision-making process requires careful consideration to be undertaken by the Department to minimise the potential for a successful challenge to the decision to adopt.

By way of clarification of the timescales referred to during the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 10 February, the Department would ask the Committee to note that the period from submission of documents by Belfast City Council until the Department formally caused the IE was 14 weeks, while the time period from receipt of the IE report by the Department until it issued a direction to Belfast City Council was 18 weeks. In total this represents a period of 32 weeks or 8 months and not the 1 year period estimated. It is important to note that this is the first plan document to complete this process and the Department fully expects that this performance will be improved by applying the lessons learned over time.

Subsequent timescales from the submission of plan documents to the Department to cause an IE were 15 weeks in the case of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; 13 weeks for Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; and 12 weeks for both Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

The Planning Forum

The Committee has asked for further information on the Department's Planning Forum. The membership of the forum has been provided already to the Committee in my letter of 21 February, as has information about its purpose and work programme.

Members of the forum representing government departments here have been nominated by their Department and NDPB representatives by their Chief Executives. As the Committee knows, there are three members from local government, nominated jointly by council heads of planning on behalf of SOLACE.

The Forum is very much an official/officer-led group, established to enable those who had direct responsibility for statutory consultations to consider and agree practical solutions to the issues raised. Separate arrangements exist for engagement between elected representatives and ministers, including the Partnership Panel which involves both NILGA representatives and the DfI Minister (along with other Ministers) and which now has planning matters as a standing item on its agenda.

Hartlands (NI) Ltd Judgment

Finally, the Committee has asked which Department will be taking the lead on any decisions called under the Hartlands decision. Within DfI we are very conscious of the implications of the Hartlands (NI) Ltd judgment for council planning committee decisions and how this might impact on performance and we are keen to see a resolution to this complex matter. It is our understanding that the best way forward will have to be via amendments to primary legislation that falls within the remit of the Department for Communities. I can assure the Committee that officials here are actively working with their counterparts in DfC to assist them in taking forward the actions required in that regard at the earliest possible opportunity.

I hope this information is helpful. Should the Committee require any further information or assistance, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Godfrey', written in a cursive style.

KATRINA GODFREY

Annex 1:

Numbers of planning applications ‘called in’ by the Department since 2015 (note that applications called in prior to 8 May 2016 will have been called in by the former Department for the Environment)

2015/2016

| Application Ref | Brief Description | Date of Call In |
|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| H/2009/0270/F | Regeneration scheme, Upperlands, Maghera | 18/06/2015 |
| H/2009/0271/LB | Regeneration scheme, Upperlands, Maghera | 18/06/2015 |
| K/2013/0272/F | Non-compliance with conditions , Inishative Wind Farm, Omagh | 08/07/2015 |
| K/2013/0327/F | Non-compliance with conditions, Inishative Wind Farm, Omagh | 09/07/2015 |
| K/2014/0328/F | Non-compliance with conditions, Inishative Wind Farm, Omagh | 08/10/2015 |
| C/2011/0459/F | Windfarm, Craigmore Road, Coleraine | 13/10/2015 |
| O/2014/0367/DCA | Demolition consent, Aonach Mhacha, Irish Culture Centre. | 26/01/2016 |
| Z/2013/0930/F | Social Housing, Glen Road, Belfast | 02/03/2016 |

2016/2017

| Application Ref | Brief Description | Date of Call In |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| P/2011/0792/RM | Turbot Fish Farm, Kilkeel | 29/04/2016 |
| R/2013/0544/RM | Saul Road, Downpatrick | 06/07/2016 |
| R/2014/0091/RM | Saul Road, Downpatrick | 06/07/2016 |
| LA04/2016/1528/LBC | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |
| LA04/2016/1529/LBC | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| LA04/2016/1619/LBC | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |
| LA04/2016/1620/DCA | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |
| LA04/2016/1621/DCA | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |
| LA04/2016/1622/DCA | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |
| LA04/2016/1623/DCA | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |
| LA04/2016/1624/DCA | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |
| LA04/2016/1625/DCA | Royal Exchange, Belfast | 04/11/2016 |
| LA04/2017/0474/F | Casement Park, Belfast | 08/03/2017 |

2017/2018

| Application Ref | Brief Description | Date of Call In |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| LA04/2017/0541/HSC | Gas/oil storage tanks, Airport Road West, Belfast | 25/05/2017 |
| LA04/2017/1388/F | Belfast Transport Hub | 26/06/2017 |
| LA02/2016/0968/F | Alterations to Church Hall, First Broughshane Presbyterian Church | 18/12/2017 |
| LA02/2017/0453/LBC | Alterations to Church Hall, First Broughshane Presbyterian Church | 18/12/2017 |
| LA10/2017/1362/HSC | Storage of Hazardous Substances, Dalradian Mine | 08/01/2018 |

2018/2019

| Application Ref | Brief Description | Date of Call In |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| LA01/2017/0250/LBC | Extension, Adelphi Hotel, Portrush | 24/04/2018 |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| LA01/2017/0251/F | Extension, Adelphi Hotel, Portrush | 24/04/2018 |
| LA01/2017/1287/F | Regularisation, Adelphi Hotel, Portrush | 24/04/2018 |
| LA01/2017/1289/LBC | Regularisation, Adelphi Hotel, Portrush | 24/04/2018 |

2019/2020

| Application Ref | Brief Description | Date of Call In |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| LA01/2018/0446/LBC | Londonderry Hotel, Portrush | 29/08/2019 |
| LA01/2017/0689/F | Londonderry Hotel, Portrush | 29/08/2019 |
| LA05/2015/0342/O | Extension to Moira Industrial Estate, Moira | 31/10/2019 |
| LA10/2019/1386/F | Power line re Dalradian Mine | 23/12/2019 |
| LA11/2019/1000/F | Power line re Dalradian Mine | 23/12/2019 |

2020/2021

| Application Ref | Brief Description | Date of Call In |
|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| LA09/2019/0024/O | Enterprise centre/ business units etc., Maghera | 02/11/2020 |
| LA09/2019/0025/F | Internal access road re LA09/2019/0024/O, Maghera | 02/11/2020 |

2021/2022 (up to 24/02/2022)

| Application Ref | Brief Description | Date of Call In |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| LA11/2019/0263/F | Erection of supermarket (Lidl), Derry | 21/09/2021 |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| LA05/2018/1154/O | Mixed use development at Blaris, Lisburn | 04/01/2022 |
| LA05/2018/1155/F | Link road re LA05/2018/1154/O, Blaris, Lisburn | 04/01/2022 |
| LA07/2020/0788/F | Creation of Hotel & Spa at Mourne Park House, Killeel | 05/01/2022 |
| LA07/2020/0843/LBC | Refurbishment & extension re Mourne Park House, Killeel | 05/01/2022 |
| LA11/2018/0186/O | Multi-sport complex, Strabane | 05/01/2022 |

ANNEX 2 – HOLDING DIRECTIONS

TABLE 1 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS WHERE A HOLDING DIRECTION HAS BEEN ISSUED FROM APRIL 2015 TO FEBRUARY 2022 UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF THE PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2015, SECTION 89(2) AND SECTION 105(6) OF THE PLANNING ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011

| Ref No | Application No. | Proposal/Location | Date of Notification Received | Date of Direction ('Holding' Direction) | Date of Response to Council | Time Taken to process (Weeks Approx) | Referred/Not Referred (Called in/ Not Called In |
|--------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 01 | F/2013/0152/F | Glenarm Regeneration Scheme | 08/04/2016 | 11/04/2016 | 05/05/2016 | 4 | Not referred |
| 02 | K/2014/0481/F | Foodstore, Omagh | 23/06/2017 | 20/07/2017 | 21/09/2017 | 5 | Not referred |
| 03 | LA02/2017/0453/LBC | Demolition of Church Halls, Session House and Dwelling, Broughshane | 05/10/2017 | 01/11/2017 | 18/12/2017 | 11 | Referred |
| 04 | LA02/2016/0968/F | New Church Halls, Broughshane | 05/10/2017* Linked to 03 | 01/11/2017 | 18/12/2017 | 11 | Referred |
| 05 | LA09/2017/0936/F | Poultry Sheds & Cattle Shed, Dungannon | 23/01/2018 | 14/02/2018 | 01/03/2018 | 5 | Not referred |
| 06 | LA01/2017/1289/LBC | Demolition Works to Adelphi Hotel, Portrush | 07/03/2018 | 23/03/2018 | 24/04/2018 | 7 | Referred |
| 07 | LA01/2017/1289/LBC | Demolition Works to Adelphi Hotel, Portrush | 07/03/2018 | 23/03/2018 | 24/04/2018 | 7 | Referred |
| 08 | LA01/2017/0251/F | Proposed additional rooms to Adelphi Hotel, Portrush | 07/03/2018* Linked to 06 | 23/03/2018 | 24/04/2018 | 7 | Referred |
| 09 | LA01/2017/1287/F | Proposed additional rooms to Adelphi Hotel, Portrush | 07/03/2018* Linked to 07 | 23/03/2018 | 24/04/2018 | 7 | Referred |
| 10 | LA07/2017/0301/LBC | Glasshouse/Cafe, Killeavy Castle, Meigh. | 01/11/2017 | 17/04/2018 | 26/04/2018 | 26 | Not referred |

| Ref No | Application No. | Proposal/Location | Date of Notification Received | Date of Direction ('Holding' Direction) | Date of Response to Council | Time Taken to process (Weeks Approx) | Referred/Not Referred (Called in/ Not Called In) |
|--------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 11 | LA07/2016/0925/F | Glasshouse/Cafe, Killeavy Castle, Meigh | 01/11/2017* Linked to 10 | 17/04/2018 | 26/04/2018 | 26 | Not referred |
| 12 | LA09/2016/0593/LBC | Replacement Dwelling, Tirkane Rd, Maghera | 12/04/2018 | 04/05/2018 | 04/06/2019 | 58 | Not referred |
| 13 | LA09/2016/0540/F | Replacement Dwelling, Tirkane Rd, Maghera | 12/04/2018* Linked to 12 | 04/05/2018 | 04/06/2019 | 58 | Not referred |
| 14 | LA05/2015/0342/O | Extension to industrial estate, Moira Road, Lurgan | 23/04/2018 | 18/06/2018 | 31/10/2019 | 74 | Not referred |
| 15 | LA03/2016/1141/F | Caravan Park, Shane's Castle, Antrim | 04/06/2018 | 19/06/2018 | 14/08/2018 | 10 | Not referred |
| 16 | LA03/2015/0173/F | Housing Development, Trench Lane, Mallusk | 07/06/2018 | 05/07/2018 | 29/03/2019 | 38 | Not referred |
| 17 | LA04/2018/0047/DCA | Demolition of dwelling, Balmoral Avenue, Belfast | 13/12/2018 | 09/01/2019 | 25/01/2019 | 6 | Not referred |
| 18 | LA04/2018/0040/F | Proposed Balmoral Health Park, Kings Hall, Belfast | 13/12/2018* Linked to 17 | 09/01/2019 | 25/01/2019 | 6 | Not referred |
| 19 | LA01/2018/0446/LBC | Retention/refurbishment/restoration of 39/41 Main Street, Portrush | 28/01/2019 | 20/02/2019 | 29/08/2019 | 30 | Referred |
| 20 | LA01/2017/0689/F | Retention/refurbishment/restoration of 39/41 Main Street, Portrush | 28/01/2019* Linked to 19 | 20/02/2019 | 29/08/2019 | 30 | Referred |
| 21 | LA02/2018/0065/F | Residential Facility, Belfast Road, Carrickfergus | 25/03/2019 | 19/04/2019 | 16/05/2019 | 8 | Not referred |
| 22 | LA09/2019/0024/O | Business Units, Tobermore Road, Maghera | 12/02/2020 | 19/04/2019 | 02/11/2020 | 38 | Referred |
| 23 | LA09/2019/0025/F | Access Rd for Business Units, Tobermore Road, Maghera | 12/02/2020 | 19/04/2019 | 02/11/2020 | 38 | Referred |

| Ref No | Application No. | Proposal/Location | Date of Notification Received | Date of Direction ('Holding' Direction) | Date of Response to Council | Time Taken to process (Weeks Approx) | Referred/Not Referred (Called in/ Not Called In) |
|--------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 24 | LA04/2019/0464/DCA | Demolition of roofs and extension. Knockdene Park, Belfast | 17/06/2019 | 11/07/2019 | 30/07/2019 | 6 | Not referred |
| 25 | LA04/2019/0468/F | New single and two storey flat roof rear extension, Knockdene Park, Belfast | 17/06/2019* Linked to 24 | 11/07/2019 | 30/07/2019 | 6 | Not referred |
| 26 | LA04/2018/2464/F | Mixed Use, Gresham Street, Belfast | 21/06/2019 | 18/07/2019 | 06/12/2019 | 24 | Not referred |
| 27 | LA04/2018/2470/O | Mixed Use, Gresham Street, Belfast | 21/06/2019 | 18/07/2019 | 06/12/2019 | 24 | Not referred |
| 28 | LA04/2018/2445/LBC | Internal and External Alterations to Gresham Street, Belfast | 21/06/2019 | 18/07/2019 | 06/12/2019 | 24 | Not referred |
| 29 | LA04/2017/2341/O | Mixed Use Development (Tribeca), Belfast City Centre | 17/02/2020 | 20/02/2020 | 06/05/2020 | 11 | Not referred |
| 30 | LA04/2019/2031/LBC | Renovation/Extension/ Demolition works, Waring Street/North Street, Belfast | 23/01/2020 Linked to 29 | 20/02/2020 | 06/05/2020 | 15 | Not referred |
| 31 | LA04/2019/2049/LBC | Partial Demolition, North Street Arcade, Belfast | 23/01/2020 Linked to 29 | 20/02/2020 | 06/05/2020 | 15 | Not referred |
| 32 | LA04/2017/2342/DCA | Demolition of building, Donegall Street, Belfast | 23/01/2020 Linked to 29 | 20/02/2020 | 06/05/2020 | 15 | Not referred |
| 33 | LA04/2017/2343/DCA | Demolition of buildings, St Anne's Court and North Street, Belfast | 23/01/2020 Linked to 29 | 20/02/2020 | 06/05/2020 | 15 | Not referred |
| 34 | LA04/2017/2344/DCA | Demolition of buildings, North Street, Belfast | 23/01/2020 Linked to 29 | 20/02/2020 | 06/05/2020 | 15 | Not referred |
| 35 | LA04/2017/2345/DCA | Demolition of buildings, Rosemary Street/North Street, Belfast | 23/01/2020 Linked to 29 | 20/02/2020 | 06/05/2020 | 15 | Not referred |

| Ref No | Application No. | Proposal/Location | Date of Notification Received | Date of Direction ('Holding' Direction) | Date of Response to Council | Time Taken to process (Weeks Approx) | Referred/Not Referred (Called in/ Not Called In |
|--------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 36 | LA04/2017/2350/DCA | Demolition of buildings, Donegall Street/North Street, Belfast | 23/01/2020 Linked to 29 | 20/02/2020 | 06/05/2020 | 15 | Not referred |
| 37 | LA04/2018/2034/LBC | Refurbishment of and extension to Wilton House 5-6 College Square, Belfast | 31/01/2020 | 27/02/2020 | 22/05/2020 | 16 | Not referred |
| 38 | LA04/2018/2097/F | Change of use, refurbishment of and extension to Wilton House to provide residential accommodation at 5-6 College Square, Belfast | 31/01/2020* Linked to 37 | 27/02/2020 | 22/05/2020 | 16 | Not referred |
| 39 | LA11/2018/1161/LBC | Retention of change of use to existing boxing club and community facility from vacant TH and proposed extension and alterations activity at 7 Townhall St, Newtownstewart; | 13/10/2020 | 09/11/2020 | 04/02/2021 | 17 | Not referred |
| 40 | LA11/2018/0011/F | Retention of change of use to existing boxing club and community facility from vacant TH and proposed extension and alterations activity at 7 Townhall St, Newtownstewart; | 13/10/2020* Linked to 39 | 09/11/2020 | 04/02/2021 | 17 | Not referred |
| 41 | LA04/2020/0659/F | Refurbishment of existing four storey terrace, alterations and extension and erection of aparthotel at 29-33 Bedford St, Belfast (Belfast Yard) | 15/10/2020 | 09/11/2020 | 15/01/2021 | 14 | Not referred |

| Ref No | Application No. | Proposal/Location | Date of Notification Received | Date of Direction ('Holding' Direction) | Date of Response to Council | Time Taken to process (Weeks Approx) | Referred/Not Referred (Called in/ Not Called In |
|--------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 42 | LA04/2020/0669/DCA | Partial demolition of the existing terrace building along with the toilet block to the rear etc at 31-33 Bedford Street. (Belfast Yard) | 15/10/2020* Linked to 41 | 09/11/2020 | 15/01/2021 | 14 | Not referred |
| 43 | LA11/2019/0263/F | Erection of a supermarket (LIDL) near Crescent Link, Derry | 20/01/2021 | 10/02/2021 | 21/09/2021 | 36 | Referred |
| 44 | LA06/2020/0097/F | Re-development of Bangor town centre (Queen's Parade) | 27/01/2021 | 17/02/2021 | Ongoing | 56 (To date) | Ongoing |
| 45 | LA11/2018/0186/O | Proposed multi-sport facility at Strabane | 08/04/2021 | 27/04/2021 | 05/01/2022 | 40 | Referred |
| 46 | LA05/2018/1154/O | Mixed Use development including 1300 dwellings, Blaris, Lisburn | 12/05/2021 | 26/05/2021 | 04/01/2022 | 34 | Referred |
| 47 | LA05/2018/1155/F | Access for Mixed Use development including 1300 dwellings Blaris, Lisburn | 12/05/2021 | 26/05/2021 | 04/01/2022 | 34 | Referred |
| 48 | LA07/2020/0788/F | Creation of hotel, spa etc and change of use at Mourne Park House, Kilkeel | 14/05/2021 | 08/06/2021 | 05/01/2022 | 35 | Referred |
| 49 | LA07/2020/0843/LBC | Refurbishment of and extension to Mourne Park House to create hotel and spa, Kilkeel | 26/05/2021 | 08/06/2021 | 05/01/2022 | 33 | Referred |
| 50 | LA07/2018/1672/DCA | Demolition of existing public house and construction of new residential development at 29-31 Canal Street, Newry | 19/10/2021 | 22/10/2021 | 07/12/2021 | 8 | Not referred |
| 51 | LA07/2018/1650/F | 13 no. apartments and attendant site works at | 19/10/2021* Linked to 50 | 22/10/2021 | 07/12/2021 | 8 | Not referred |

| Ref No | Application No. | Proposal/Location | Date of Notification Received | Date of Direction ('Holding' Direction) | Date of Response to Council | Time Taken to process (Weeks Approx) | Referred/Not Referred (Called in/ Not Called In |
|--------|------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | | 29-31 Canal St, Newry | | | | | |
| 52 | LA11/2020/0549/F | Public greenway for use by pedestrians and cyclists to connect Derry to Elagh Business Park | 28/10/2021 | 03/11/2021 | Ongoing | 18 (To date) | Ongoing |
| 53 | LA04/2020/1943/F | Residential conversion of the existing listed warehouses at 3-19 Rydalmere St, Belfast | 01/11/2021 | 11/11/2021 | Ongoing | 17 (To date) | Ongoing |
| 54 | LA02/2017/0594/F | Construction of a wind farm comprising around Carnalbanagh Road, 9.5km east of Broughshane | 19/11/2021 | 23/11/2021 | Ongoing | 14 (To date) | Ongoing |
| 55 | P/2013/0189/F | Sports complex near Drumsesk Road, Rostrevor | 23/11/2021 | 16/12/2021 | Ongoing | 14 (To date) | Ongoing |

TABLE 2 - THIRD PARTY REQUEST FOR REFERRAL (CALL IN) WHERE A HOLDING DIRECTION HAS BEEN ISSUED FROM APRIL 2015 TO FEBRUARY 2022

| Ref No | Application No | Proposal/Location | Date of Notification Received | Date of Direction (Holding Direction) | Date of Response to Council | Time Taken to process (Weeks)* | Referred/Not Referred (Called in/ Not Called In |
|--------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 01 | LA05/2017/0002/O | Housing Development, Comber Road, Dundonald | 22/11/2016** | 06/01/2017 | 06/02/2017 | 11 | Not referred |
| 02 | S/2014/0910/F | Housing Development, Maghaberry | 14/12/2016** | 06/01/2017 | 06/02/2017 | 8 | Not referred |
| 03 | LA11/2017/0301/F | NW Waterside Transport Hub, Londonderry | 11/04/2018** | 20/04/2018 | 30/04/2018 | 3 | Not referred |
| 04 | LA11/2017/0298/LBC | NW Waterside Transport Hub, Londonderry | 11/04/2018** | Linked to 03 | 30/04/2018 | 3 | Not referred |
| 05 | LA11/2017/0510/F | Slurry Chamber, Evis Road, Strabane | 10/02/2020** | 19/02/2020 | 23/06/2020 | 21 | Not referred |
| 06 | LA03/2018/0842/F | Replacement Class A1 foodstore and petrol filling station (ASDA) at Doagh Rd, Monkstown | 17/08/2020** | 17/08/2020 | 28/10/2020 | 11 | Not referred |
| 07 | LA07/2020/0485/F | Mixed use development scheme (offices / retail and residential) at Merchant's Quay, Newry | 12/03/2021** | 15/03/2021 | 17/05/2021 | 10 | Not referred |
| 08 | LA10/2019/1392/F | Mixed use retail and leisure development near Irvinestown Rd, Enniskillen (Former 'Unipork' site) | 30/06/2021** | 24/06/2021 | Ongoing | 35 (To date) | Ongoing |

Notes in relation to the tables:

1. A 'holding' direction is a discretionary power that the Department may exercise under The Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, which restricts the grant of planning permission by a council, either indefinitely or during such period as may be specified in the direction. The power affords the Department the time necessary, or additional time in the case where a notification in relation to an application has been submitted by a council to the Department and the 28 day period allowed for the consideration of a submitted notification is insufficient, to consider whether to refer (call in) a planning application for development under section 29 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and, if not, advise the council that it may proceed to determine an application.
2. A 'holding' notification, which is similar to an Article 17 'holding' direction, is a discretionary power that the Department may exercise under section 89(2)(b) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, whereby the Department may give notice to a council that it requires further time in which to consider whether to require an application for listed building consent to be referred (called in) to itself for determination and, if not, advise the council that it may proceed to determine an application. The further time would be additional time beyond the 28 day period allowed for the consideration of a submitted notification. A 'holding' notification may also be exercised in relation to an application for conservation area consent (i.e. demolition) under section 105(6) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
3. The issuing of a 'holding' direction or a 'holding' notification does not prevent a council from continuing to process a planning application up to the point of making a decision but it does prevent it issuing one.
4. The information presented in the tables was abstracted from records the Department holds.

Key:

*This refers to an application associated with an application that was subject to a notification submitted by a council to the Department e.g. an application for full planning permission that was associated with a notified application for listed building consent (LBC) or for demolition in a conservation area (DCA). The notification date of the notified application has been used in relation to the associated application in order to allow the completion of the 'Time taken (weeks)' field.

**This refers to an application that has been the subject of a third party request asking for it to be referred (called in) to the Department for determination, which has been subject to an Article 17 'holding' direction. Some applications may be subject to multiple call in requests at different times and the date of the first request received has been used in relation to the application in order to allow the completion of the 'Time taken (weeks)' field.