



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-175, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

I am requesting information regarding the implementation and impact of the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirement on planning applications submitted to your council. Please provide the following data for the period from 12 February 2024 to the date of your response.

Planning Application Decisions:

- The total number of planning applications refused where failure to meet the statutory Biodiversity Net Gain requirement was a primary or contributing reason for refusal.
- The total number of planning applications that have been delayed or had a decision withheld pending the submission or approval of a satisfactory BNG plan.

Length of Delays:

- For the applications delayed due to BNG requirements (as identified in question 1), what has been the average length of the delay, measured in weeks, from the initial target decision date?

BNG Enforcement:

- The total number of enforcement actions or formal investigations the council has initiated related to non-compliance with BNG obligations on approved developments. 0
- The total number of financial penalties or fines that have been issued by the council for breaches of BNG requirements and the total monetary value (£) of these penalties. 0

Reasons for Planning Delays (Context):

- A list of the five most common reasons cited for delays in determining planning applications within your council since 12 February 2024. If possible, please indicate the percentage of total delays each reason accounts for, to help contextualise the impact of BNG relative to other factors.

Response:

Planning Application Decisions:

- This information would be on the Decision Notice/Officer Report. You can search here [Simple Search](#) using the advanced search, Status-Refused and date parameters.
- No decision for the initial application have been delayed as a result of the pre-commencement condition to supply a BNG plan

Length of Delays:

- N/A

BNG Enforcement:

- 0
- 0

Reasons for Planning Delays (Context):

- BNG not meeting validation requirements or minimum legal requirements

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-175.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.