



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 24/25-166, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Please only include full planning applications - not applications for tree works or discharge of condition applications, for example.

1. How many planning applications have been received between the 12th February 2024 and but prior to 2nd April 2024?
2. Of these applications, how many remain invalid?
3. Of the invalid applications, how many are due to the introduction of biodiversity net gain provisions as part of the validation process?
4. Of the validated planning applications, how many triggered the requirement to provide mandatory biodiversity net gain?
5. How many planning applications have been received since 2nd April 2024?
6. Of these, how many remain invalid?
7. Of those valid applications, how many have met the following exemption criteria for biodiversity net gain:
 - i. Householder development
 - ii. Self-build and/or custom build development
 - iii. Application for biodiversity gain site
 - iv. HS2 related application
 - v. De minimis – a development which does not impact a priority habitat and impacts less than: 25metres² of on-site habitat or 5metres of on-site linear habitats (e.g. hedgerows). 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?

Response:

1. 146

2. 1

3. 0

4. This information is available for customers to view on our public access webpage at: [Simple Search \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk). Under the advanced search you can add the date received and valid. You will also have access to the application form which would include any BNG requirements. This, information is therefore refused under Section 21 – Information Accessible Via Other Means

5. 311

6. 25

7. This information is available for customers to view on our public access webpage. Under the advanced search you can add the date received and valid. You will also have access to the application form which would include any BNG requirements.

8. As no.7

9. This question will go unanswered as it is for a personal opinion, not corporate.

10. Yes, our 'Guidance notes on validation checklists for Planning Applications' document with updated BNG guidance is available on our website at: [Validation requirements | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/Validation-requirements)

11. No

12. Yes, a Senior Ecologist has been employed.

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act:

b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

c) State why the exemption applies:

The information requested is accessible to you via other means at:

Section 21 states the following:

- 1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under Section 1 is exempt information.
- 2) For the purposes of subsection (1) –
 - a. Information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
 - b. Information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

Therefore, as the Council publish this information, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Act.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 24/25-166.

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 5A