

Submitting a planning appeal has changed in some local authority areas – find out where

News story

We have launched a 'beta' planning appeal submission process for more than 30 local planning authority (LPA) areas, marking a step forward in our new service roll-out.



We are designing a new planning appeals service to be easier, faster and more cost effective. The first part of these improvements focuses on the appeal submission form, and we have now introduced a new form for submitting full planning (s78) and householder appeals in some local authority areas of England. This builds on the [smaller pilot we ran earlier this year](#).

In the coming months we will be adding additional LPAs and new features to the service.

What's changed?

For now, people submitting appeals for [householder](#) or [full planning decisions \(s78\)](#) in the regions mentioned below are eligible to use the new submission form.

The main difference will be a simpler, more intuitive appeal submission process, using standardised government formats, which are familiar across government services. Eligible users will be able to start their appeal on GOV.UK instead of the [Appeals Casework Portal \(ACP\)](#).

The submission form includes built in guidance as well as validation to ensure appeals are submitted with all the correct information.

Over the coming weeks we will make a change so that eligible appeals are redirected from the ACP to the correct start page on GOV.UK. We have also asked LPAs in the participating regions to update hyperlinks in their

planning decision notices where permission is refused.

Which regions are included?

London

- London Borough of Barnet
- London Borough of Brent
- London Borough of Bromley
- London Borough of Camden
- London Borough of Hillingdon
- London Borough of Islington
- London Borough of Lambeth
- Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Midlands

North East

- City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
- Darlington Borough Council
- Durham County Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Gateshead Council
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Leeds City Council
- Middlesbrough Council
- Newcastle City Council
- North Tyneside Council
- Northumberland County Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- South Tyneside Council
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Sunderland City Council
- Wakefield Council

North West

- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Kirklees Council

South East

South West

- Bristol City Council
- Cornwall Council
- Wiltshire Council

What's coming up next?

We will soon be releasing the final comments submission process for cases submitted via the new service. We continue to work on the design and development of other case types, such as appeals for listed building consent and enforcement. We are also improving the design of the LPA questionnaire and statement submission process.

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[Civil/crime news: online form service to submit a complaint](#)

News story

We are introducing a new online form service to submit a complaint to the Legal Aid Agency (LAA).



A new online form service is available for users of legal aid to submit a complaint.

If you have a Client and Cost Management System (CCMS) account, you will still be able to submit a complaint by using our online system.

Why are you doing this now?

We want to ensure that if you are not satisfied with the service we provide, you are able to contact us about this.

Complaint response times

Our complaint response times have not changed and are outlined on our complaint procedure page. This explains how the complaints process works.

We have only changed how you submit your complaint to us, making it accessible for all.

What if I want to complain by post?

If you would like to submit your complaint by post, you can still do this. Details can be found on our complaint procedure page.

Further information

[Complain to the LAA](#) – online form service

[Complaints procedure](#) – how the complaints process works

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[Have your say on future of Thames Estuary flood risk](#)

Londoners and people in north Kent and south Essex are getting the chance to shape the response to increased flood threat as climate change threatens to create higher sea levels.

The Environment Agency and a number of other bodies are looking towards the end of the century to ensure homes, businesses and critical services from Teddington to Sheerness and Southend remain protected by updating the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan.

Dartford Creek Barrier's steel gates lower when flooding is likely

The Environment Agency is calling on communities and organisations to play their part in updating the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan by [giving their views on the new flood risk strategy](#).

Southend Pier reaching out into the Thames – the eight-week public consultation is after views on how to protect this part of south Essex

With more than 3,000 flood defences – including the iconic Thames Barrier – protecting 1.42 million people from flooding in the London area, there is still more to do.

The Environment Agency is updating the plan to increase resilience and still

manage flood risk in the most cost-effective way. A review of the latest scientific evidence found that the strategy continued to set out a robust approach to future flood risk.

Baroness Brown DBE FREng FRS, chair of the Climate Change Committee's adaptation committee and chair of the advisory group that reviewed the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan, said:

Significant sea-level rise is now inevitable, and even reaching global net zero – imperative to limit future warming – will not stop this rising tide.

The plan aims to protect communities from flooding while reshaping riversides and enhancing nature.

Only 12 per cent of more than 3,000 flood defences are the responsibility of the Environment Agency, so it is essential that the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan is a team effort, owned by everyone with an interest in our river.

Julie Foley, the Environment Agency's director for flood strategy and national adaptation, said:

We've operated the Thames Barrier to protect London more than 200 times in the past 40 years.

But the climate is changing and causing sea levels to rise. Our evidence shows that could be by more than a metre by 2100.

While we expect the Thames Barrier to continue to protect London until 2070, we need to plan ahead now to keep London protected from storm surges. By 2040 we will make a decision on the preferred option for 2070 and beyond.

Following recent roadshows in Canvey Island and Dartford, three more public events will be held for people to see the updated plans and discuss them with specialists from the Environment Agency and other organisations involved in protecting London, south Essex and north Kent.

The Thames Estuary 2100: Shaping the future of the Thames Estuary:

- Wednesday 5 October: 3pm – 6pm: The Forum at Greenwich, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich SE10 9EQ
- Tuesday 11 October: 4.30pm – 8pm: Thameside Theatre, Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5DX
- Tuesday 25 October: Time TBC: Portsoken Community Centre, Little Somerset Street, London E1 8AA

The consultation is open until 20 November 2022.

Published in 2012, the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan was the first flood risk management strategy to adapt to different climate scenarios. A recent review

of the plan showed it was still a robust approach.

The plan covers 2,400km of roads, almost 4,000 electricity substations, 140 mainline and Tube stations and London City Airport and London Heliport.

Experts in flood protection want local people to help update the existing strategy to reduce flood risk, to safeguard communities along the estuary.

The review also found that some tidal defences needed to be raised earlier than originally thought, some within the next 20 years. It's crucial that we act now and work together – no organisation can deliver this ambitious strategy alone.

Paper copies of the consultation can be requested from thamesestuary2100@environment-agency.gov.uk and returned via email or sent to Thames Estuary 2100 Plan consultation, Environment Agency, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF. The questionnaire will close at 11.59pm on 20 November 2022.

You can read the original [Thames Estuary 2100 Plan here](#) along with the [10-Year Review](#).

Malaysian social entrepreneur receives the Commonwealth Points of Light award

After conducting research and discovering that thousands of Malaysian girls in rural communities miss an average of 60 days of school a year due to a lack of menstrual products and knowledge, Anja Juliah has embarked on a quest to address the problem. She, and her social enterprise, Athena Holdings, educate girls in rural communities on menstruation and provides reusable sanitary pads, this has helped to ensure that girls can continue with their studies whilst also reducing the number of single-use sanitary pads going to landfill.

Anja Juliah has since extended her work to support girls in indigenous communities in Sabah and Sarawak, benefitting at least 1,600 girls since 2016.

In addition to this, Anja has also provided mentorship for women aspiring to become social entrepreneurs, and has previously conducted financial empowerment programmes for young housewives who had never worked before to teach them basic entrepreneurship.

H.E. Charles Hay, the British High Commissioner to Malaysia, said:

Education is the key to a better life. Thanks to the remarkable

effort of educating girls in rural communities about menstrual health and providing reusable sanitary pads, Anja Juliah has helped ensure girls remain in schools and get the basic education that they need. I would also like to commend Anja Juliah for empowering young women through her coaching and mentoring work. I hope Anja Juliah's work will inspire other social entrepreneurs to make a difference in their respective communities.

Upon receiving the award, Anja Juliah said:

This award came as an absolute surprise to me. I am deeply humbled and honoured. This journey has never been about me at all. Exactly 10 years ago, I started teaching girls in rural Borneo about menstruation and sponsoring washable sanitary pads to them. As a result, the girls did not have to be absent from school. Education is their pathway to a better life. I am thankful to my family, friends and partners who have supported my mission to empowering girls and young women in Malaysia. I hope my work will enable girls to pursue their dreams, and inspire them to help others.

The [Commonwealth Points of Light award programme](#) was launched in the UK in 2018 when the UK chaired the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Following the success of this programme, the late Queen Elizabeth II, as the Head of the Commonwealth, decided to continue this award programme beyond 2018 to recognise good deeds and highlight stories of service to community.

Anja Juliah was delighted to find that the certificate presented to her today was in fact signed by the late Queen Elizabeth II before her passing recently. This made the award even more special and meaningful.

Prior to Anja Juliah, 4 other Malaysians have received the Commonwealth Points of Light award since 2018. They are:

- Dr Madhusudhan who provides free medical treatment to the homeless through his Teddy Mobile Clinics
 - Dr Chen Pelf Nyok from the Turtle Conservation Society who protects freshwater turtles in Terengganu
 - Khor Sue Yee and Aurora Tin from Zero Waste Malaysia for promoting a zero-waste lifestyle to save the environment
 - philanthropist Kuan Chee Heng who is popularly known as Uncle Kentang
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UK wins seat on top UN telecoms council

- The UN agency allocates spectrum, coordinates satellite orbits and develops technical standards for mobile phones, TV and sat-navs
- Election gives UK a major role in promoting a free, open and secure internet and connecting the unconnected

The UK has been elected to the governing council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN agency which enables the world's phone, internet and satellite networks to operate.

The ITU coordinates the global allocation of spectrum, the radio waves used for sending and receiving information. It also oversees the network of orbiting satellites which enable everyday technologies such as mobiles, wifi, terrestrial television, GPS navigation, weather information and online maps to function.

The organisation is behind the technical agreements on country codes (for example +44 in the UK) that make international phone calls possible. Its radio frequency allocations enable people's phones to roam overseas and its technical standards have helped enable people to stream video on their devices. It also works to widen access to the internet to the 2.7 billion people across the world that aren't connected.

The UK has been an active member of the ITU, one of the oldest international organisations still in existence, for more than 150 years. The council acts as the union's governing body to guide the ITU's work in telecoms and information and communication technology (ICT) policy issues which affect every country in the world.

The UK received the second highest number of votes in the Western Europe group, securing 151 votes out of a possible 179. Technology minister Damian Collins and Foreign Office minister and UK Special Envoy to the ITU Lord Ahmad attended the ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest last week to support the UK's election campaign.

Tech and Digital Economy Minister Damian Collins said:

The UK is a technology superpower and has always played a leading role setting international standards for telecoms and innovations which have improved billions of people's lives across the globe.

With a seat on the ITU's governing council, we will champion tech as a solution to the world's biggest challenges, redouble our efforts to close the divide between those cut off from technology and those in the digital fast lane and make sure the internet remains free and open.

Foreign Office Minister of State and UK Special Representative to the ITU, Lord Ahmad said:

I'm delighted the UK has been selected to help lead the ITU's mission in realising everyone's right to communicate freely and securely, wherever they are in the world.

Through our seat in the governing council, we'll work with all states to ensure the organisation delivers for its members and bridges the digital divide.

Becoming a member of the ITU's Council will bolster UK efforts to promote collaboration and consensus among the ITU's 193 member states to tackle some of the biggest issues affecting the technology, telecoms and space sectors.

Issues include the growing demand for radio spectrum caused by the growth of new wireless technologies and the ITU's mission to 'connect the world' – bridging the global digital divide and increasing prosperity in developing countries by boosting digital inclusion and people's skills.

The UK will also use its membership to ensure the ITU focuses on keeping information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the hands of industry and the free market and making sure they remain interoperable – benefiting UK technology businesses through access to the biggest possible global market.

The UK's success comes as US candidate Doreen Bogdan-Martin was elected on Thursday as the first female Secretary General of the ITU, defeating Russia's Rashid Ismailov. The result was welcomed by the UK as a significant win for the efforts of western democracies to block attempts by authoritarian regimes to put greater government controls on the internet.

ENDS

The ITU – The International Telecommunication Union – is one of many “specialised” agencies of the United Nations.

It was established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, making it one of the oldest international organisations still in existence today.

As the name suggests, it was first established to coordinate the telegram industry. Methods of communication have clearly evolved since then, and as has the mandate of the ITU. The ITU, quite simply, aims to connect the world.

Today, the ITU is responsible for three key areas:

- **Standardisation:** The ITU standardisation sector creates technical standards (called Recommendations) which facilitate everyday activities such as making phone calls and accessing mobile networks.
- **Radio-communication:** This includes things like facilitating international cooperation in assigning radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. Today there are billions of wireless devices using

radio-spectrum and thousands of communications satellites circulating around earth. These satellites provide services to billions of people – watching live sport, using online maps and accessing mobile broadband are all made possible by coordination of radio-spectrum and satellites at the ITU.

- Development: This means striving to improve access to telecommunications and information communication technologies to underserved communities worldwide.