



COVID –19 Building Standards Update

We would like to reassure customers that we are doing everything we can to reduce the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on our ability to deliver our service. We have taken a number of steps to ensure that we can deliver Building Standards Services while preventing further spread of the virus and protecting both employee and public health.

Public Office Closure

From Wednesday 18 March 2020, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic our offices at the Opera House, Kilmarnock will no longer receive visitors or host meetings. As the offices are closed staff will be working remotely to maintain business continuity.

Business as usual

All staff who are fit for work will continue to carry out as many of the regular duties as possible, subject to the restrictions set out by the government. Staff will therefore be available to process your electronic Building Warrant applications and deal with enquiries. When submitting building warrant or resubmissions of information for invalid applications the normal processes and arrangements for [submitting online applications](#) remain the same. Due to these restrictions, the Service has no scanning capabilities at this time and therefore all Building Warrant applications and associated forms should be submitted electronically to [eBuilding Standards.scot](#) .

Due to government health restrictions, no site visits will be undertaken at this time. This part of the service will be reviewed and reinstated once government restrictions are uplifted and normal service resumed.

Building Standards Register

You will still be able to view the Building Warrant Register for property information from the Online Public Registers. You can access these at the [Building Standards Register](#)

Payment of Building Warrant Fees

When submitting an application via eBuilding Standards.scot payments can be made via the Online Portal at the time of your application. If you have not submitted the Building Warrant fees when submitting

the application then you can make the payment at [Civicaepay](#)

Scottish Government - Building Standards Information

The Scottish Government have provided guidance to Building Standards Services which can be viewed as follows:-

- [Special measures to enable the acceptance of unsigned certificates of design: letter to local authorities](#)
- [Special measures to enable the erection of temporary care assistance buildings: letter to local authorities](#)
- [Special measures to enable the occupation of new buildings: letter to local authorities](#)

Dangerous Buildings

Dangerous Building notification is generally coordinated by the Emergency Services and passed to Building Standards to review and take necessary actions. If you wish to report a dangerous building or structure which is structurally unsafe please email buildingstandards@east-ayrshire.gov.uk and your enforcement complaint will be reviewed. If you are contacting the Council out with office hours please call 0345 724 0000 which will be for emergencies only.

Please note that derelict or dilapidated building not posing an immediate risk will be dealt with by the Service on a priority basis and details of the building should be emailed to: buildingstandards@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Contact Us

At this time the service has been modified following government guidance to maintain business continuity and all enquiries should be submitted via email at buildingstandards@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

In preparation for lifting of current restrictions and return to normal service the building standards service is monitoring the most up to date Scottish Government guidance. Should there be any issues you wish to raise or we can assist you with please contact us at the above email address.



CARING, KIND AND CONNECTED

Developing the Building Standards Workforce

Like a number of sectors of the Scottish economy the construction industry is facing a number of challenges including skills shortages and an ageing workforce. In response to these challenges the Building Standards Division (BSD) of Scottish Government are developing a workforce strategy for the building standards verification service. The Strategy intends to deliver positive outcomes and create changes locally and nationally that will help local authorities continue to build successful teams and ensure the service is sustainable for the future.

In developing the strategy, both Local Authority Building Standards Scotland (LABSS) and the Scottish Government (BSD) have developed a set of commitments based on the following themes:

- developing a professional framework;
- promoting the building standards profession;
- growing education and training opportunities;
- improving succession planning activities; and
- ensuring data reporting is relevant.



East Ayrshire Building Standards Service have participated in the national discussion to agree the proposed national strategy and consider the

practical steps required to make the strategy a success.

Within East Ayrshire Council we already have an internal Graduate programme with two graduate surveyors appointed during 2019. The Graduate Surveyors are currently undertaking a programme of structured training over a two year period. The focus on attracting people into our service will create a balanced and more effective succession and workforce planning to ensure East Ayrshire Building Standards Service is able to deliver a first-class service. The national strategy and local development programme intends to build a sustainable building standards verification workforce and show that building standards is a profession that values diversity and is open and accessible to all.

Monthly Performance Figures

Monthly performance figures for Building Warrant applications received, processed and determined by the Building Standards Section over the last 9 months.

	2019/20	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Building Warrants Received		101	86	84	103	99	66	64	74	76
% of Building Warrant applications processed within 15 working days		84%	86%	91%	93%	97%	66%	96%	96%	100%
% of Building Warrant applications processed within 20 working days		91%	94%	97%	98%	100%	88%	100%	100%	100%
and assessed within an average of		9 days	9 days	8 days	8 days	5 days	12 days	7 days	6 days	6 days
Building Warrants determined		78	68	79	119	105	94	68	96	24
% of Building Warrants determined within 6 days of receipt of all outstanding information		79%	74%	62%	20%	38%	65%	22%	79%	58%
Received Completion Certificate submissions		63	175	294	297	189	138	155	96	47
which were inspected within an average of		2 days	1 day	3 days	3 days	3 days	1 day	2 days	2 days	2 days
% of Completion Certificates determined within 3 days of final inspection		48%	45%	7%	10%	23%	73%	18%	81%	11%
Inspected Property complaints relating to enforcement		10	18	13	10	7	11	7	14	7
Enforcement notices issued in relation to unauthorised works or dangerous buildings		3	3	0	3	4	3	8	0	2