

Planning application submission data specification advisory group

Purpose:

To develop a set of open, reusable data specifications to underpin planning application submissions. These will update the [templates currently set by Government](#).

Having these will in turn begin making it easier for stakeholders (local authorities, developers, citizens) to share, access and use standardised planning application submission data.

It aims to support data interoperability across systems and jurisdictions, ensuring consistency and improving transparency.

Scope:

The specifications will define the structure and format of data that is required as part of the planning application submission process, based on the national legislation in place.

At this time, any specifications developed will not cover specific local area requirements but provide a foundation for local specifications to be developed to augment the national specifications.

Intended outcomes:

- standardise planning application data to improve accessibility and understanding
- enable integration with existing datasets (for example land use, infrastructure)
- foster collaboration among government bodies, developers, planners and software providers
- improve data quality, consistency and transparency in the planning process

Objectives of advisory group:

- identify and agree on the core data requirements of planning application submissions
- discuss and inform MHCLG on developing data specifications for those core data requirements
- discuss issues raised and any potential solutions

Roles and responsibilities:

- **Chair**
 - manage meetings, ensure issues are identified and discussed, ensure actions are delivered
- **Editor - MHCLG - Data Design team**
 - attend meetings, design specifications, ensure issues identified are worked on and decisions made, deliver allocated actions
- **Secretariat - MHCLG -**
 - take a record of meetings and share them openly with the community as required
- **advisory group members¹ - external**
 - review technical specifications, including schemas and vocabularies, provide feedback, identify issues
- **MHCLG members -**
 - provide input on planning regulations and application processes
 - provide input on the wider digital planning programme activities
- **Community engagement manager - MHCLG**
 - Facilitates wider community involvement and feedback.

Expected outputs:

- a machine-readable set of specifications for planning application submission data
- supporting documentation, including user guidance and technical specifications
- case studies and examples demonstrating real-world application

Timeline:

First advisory group meeting on **27 November 2024** 1300 - 1530 location ARUP, 80 Charlotte Street, London W1T 4QS. The initial meeting will be face to face. Future meeting approach to be confirmed at the first advisory group.

Testing and public feedback on pilot data specifications over 6 months aim to have candidate specifications (ready to be mandated) by March 2025.

Expected time requirement of advisory group members is 1.5 hours every fortnight plus any specific work needed outside of meetings as agreed. To be confirmed at the first advisory group.

¹ Not expecting this to be an LPA heavy group (expecting 2-3 maximum) feedback and engagement with other LPAs will be utilising existing community channels.