



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

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Chair
Communities and Local Government Committee
House of Commons
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Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse

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Dear Clive,

Public parks inquiry

During the oral evidence session on Monday 5 December, I said I would respond in writing to a couple of the points raised.

Greenspace mapping project – How does it ensure that all green spaces are included?

- The Greenspace specification has been defined by Ordnance Survey in collaboration with key stakeholders, BEIS, The Scottish Government and Greenspace Scotland.
- This specification has been established over a period of 12 months. The dataset comprises of topographic areas published in OS MasterMap Topography Layer, with additional greenspace-specific attribution to describe their function.
- It includes both publicly accessible and private green spaces, sports facilities and natural environment features.
- OS has captured green spaces to the specification using standard approaches including existing topographic methods and aerial imagery.

Greenspace areas classified:

- Public parks or gardens
- Private gardens or grounds
- Amenity greenspace
- Play spaces
- Sports areas and playing fields
- Golf courses
- Natural or semi-natural greenspaces
- Allotments or community growing spaces
- Churchyards or burial grounds
- Camping or caravan sites
- Areas undergoing land use change

How many applications have been received to the Green Flag Award in the last few years? Aren't numbers of applications declining?

- In England, Green Flag Award applications have **increased by 11% between 2012 and 2016** (the UK figure is +16%).
- There was a **slight reduction in applications in 2013** however numbers have increased every year since.
- Green Flag Community Award applications in England fell in 2013 and 2014 but increased again in 2015 and 2016 and are expected to reach record levels next year.

Green Flag Award - applications

	2012 (baseline)	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change 2012- 2016
England	1194	1172	1185	1280	1320	+11%
Wales	60	62	66	70	78	+30%
Scotland	47	55	62	67	73	+55%
Northern Ireland	16	22	36	43	53	+232%
UK total	1317	1311	1349	1460	1524	+16%

Green Flag Community Award - applications

	2012 (baseline)	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change 2012- 2016
England	160	144	134	147	153	-4%
Wales	30	59	37	41	90	+200%
Scotland	2	1	1	1	1	-100%
Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0	1	-
UK total	192	204	172	187	245	+28%

I hope this is useful.



ANDREW PERCY MP