



Planning Aid

England

Engaging Communities in Planning

Planning Aid England Eligibility Guide for Clients

Planning Aid England is part of the Royal Town Planning Institute, a registered charity, and offers a service to people who cannot afford to pay professional fees. Because of this our service is primarily targeted towards those on low incomes; groups or individuals who have not traditionally been involved in the planning system; and/or those groups or individuals who live within specific disadvantaged target areas. The service is operated by a team of paid staff and a network of professionally qualified volunteers. We do not offer our services to other professionals or organisations who can afford to employ professionals.

The criteria we use to decide the level of assistance a case qualifies for is set out below. When you contact us, our staff may ask questions about your income in order to make a full assessment.

(Please note: Even if you are not eligible for additional help, we will still be able to offer you 15 minutes of free planning advice)

Planning Aid England reserves the right to decline or limit the advice and support it offers.

Eligibility for the Planning Advice Line

All callers are eligible for 15 minutes of free planning advice on the advice line. Our assessment of eligibility for help further to this is based on whether you can afford professional fees and/or whether you will stand to gain financially from our assistance.

Individuals

1. What household income bracket are you in?

These figures may vary across the country so you will need to select your local region from the table below. If you fall below the figure given, you may qualify for further assistance.

North – £26,000
North West - £33,000
Yorkshire - £29,000
East Midlands - £34,000
West Midlands - £34,000
East of England - £38,000
South East - £42,000
South West - £36,000
South - £39,000

2. Will you benefit financially from our advice?

If you will benefit financially from the advice of Planning Aid England offers (e.g. the enquiry is regarding something that will add to the resale value of your house or stop the value depreciating), you will **not** qualify for help beyond the initial 15 minutes.

The following cases are examples of enquiries that will **not** receive further assistance:

- The extension or enhancement of a person's home
- The development of new properties
- An objection to another's planning application based on concern of depreciation for the value of a person's own property

3. Have you already received professional advice or employed (or intend employing) builders or other trades people?

If the answer is yes, the case will not qualify to receive help beyond our standard 15 minutes of free advice.

Community Organisations

Further assistance may be provided to:

- Local charities, social enterprises and voluntary and community groups that have less than six months free reserves (or undesignated funds) or an annual income of less than £10,000
- Those who represent tenants or residents organisations where the members cannot collectively afford professional help.
- Parish Councils do not qualify for further assistance on specific applications but our community planning service may be able to help by working with communities within their areas.

Eligibility for Community Planning

To ensure we provide a service to those most in need, our community planning service is targeted towards groups and communities within the most deprived areas.

Please note that the Planning Aid service is not intended to support those groups who have sufficient income and can employ a professional to help them. Planning Aid England does not offer help to planning consultants and other professional bodies.