

Worcestershire
Regulatory Services

Supporting and protecting you

Activity Report | 2025-26

Published on 4th July 2025



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www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



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Foreword

Written by **Simon Wilkes** (Director of Regulatory Services)

Welcome to the first activity report for 2025/26. It follows the familiar format that Board members will have seen many times and, whilst the detail covers the period 1st April to 30th June 2025. Figures in the graphs and tables will allowing comparison with the data in previous periods.

Stray dog numbers continued to be high due to new contracts with other authorities, and managing the space with kennelling partners has been taxing at times. Numbers are slightly higher than last year and well above the one previous to that.

Food cases (complaints and enquiries,) were slightly above the established trend in Q1. Interventions were slightly down on previous years, but still demonstrate a good number of interventions and again the food secotr continues to show good levels of compliance. Health and safety work also generally following trends during this period. One fatality was reported during Q1, but after some work officers realised that the location wasa ctually just over the border in Herefodshire, so handed the case across to Environmental Health colleagues there.

Information requests showed another spike in activity and, while requests for support in the planning system dropped marginally compared to Q4 last year, the overall trend remains upward and Q1 had the second highest number of requests per quarter in the past 3 years. Last year was clearly the busiest year of the last three, and Q1 suggests there is no respite in view.

Overall, Licensing work involving both applications and complaints/ enquiries remained around the trend line during quarter 1, with complaints and enquuries slightly down but applications slightly up.

Pollution cases started the year on the increase, with 553 cases approaching the level achieved in Q1 of 2023/4 and well above the 334 in Q4 last year. A relatively good spring is likely to have contributed to this and, with a hot, dry summer we anticipate this summer as having been a busy one for nuisance complaints. If so, this will demonstrate what I have always said about nuisance complaint levels appearing inextricably linked to the weather. Public Health related complaints (accumulations, vermin, public burials, etc,) appear to have started more or less on trend for the year.

We hope the report demonstrates the volume of work staff are undertaking and that some of the stories behind the numbers highlight the difficulties staff sometimes face. If you have further queries, please feel free to contact myself and the Team Managers.

Many thanks.



Community Environmental Health

Written by **David Mellors** (Environmental Health And Trading Standards Manager)

Quarter One

Quarter 1 was a challenging time for your Community Environmental Health Team, with some very complex and challenging cases coinciding with the retirement of one of the Principal Officers who led on noise and pollution issues and some officers requiring extended and unforeseen periods of leave. Recruitment has proven to be very difficult due to the nationally recognised shortage of qualified environmental health officers but remains ongoing.

Following receipt of a Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 notification, an accident investigation was carried out into a Jewson DIY outlet in Redditch. A Forklift truck had reversed into and run over the right foot of a window fitter from a local company, who was collecting building materials from the branch. He was attended by a paramedic and taken directly to hospital with multiple foot fractures and dislocated toes.

The Parent Company was subsequently successfully prosecuted in Q1, found guilty of offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and on appeal against sentence fined £300,000 with costs to the sum of £11,029.

Sadly, investigations continued into the several fatalities notified to the team and covered in previous reports, with regular liaison and updates being made to the Coroner's Office.

There was on-going CEH involvement following the discovery of a rodent infestation and food product recall in respect of a retail warehouse in Kidderminster. Following the voluntary closure of the premises, legal proceedings were instigated for food hygiene offences. The company has entered a guilty plea, and sentencing has been set for December.

The new programme of pro-active food safety interventions commenced, and your Officers continued to work with food giant Muller as part of the Primary Authority arrangement whereby WRS provide assured advice nationally.

The investigation into continuing food offences at a Bakery in Malvern Hills DC escalated with a prosecution pre-hearing scheduled for June.

The end of season reviews were completed on the designated sports grounds and stands on behalf of the County Council, which include Worcester Warriors rugby, Worcester City football, Bromsgrove Sporting, Kidderminster Harriers and Worcester Racecourse.

Infection control investigations were undertaken into cases of norovirus and cryptosporidium across the district, and an Officer was deployed to oversee an exhumation.

Major works in default were undertaken to resolve a long-standing drainage issue in Barnt Green. An old septic tank system and soakaway at a residential property had failed, giving rise to discharges of sewage across the property and into the road. The remedial works included the installation of a modern packaged sewage treatment plant with consented discharge into the highway drainage system, avoiding the need for a new soakaway which would have been costly and disruptive and prone to future failure.

In nuisance work, Officers are working with the respective partner legal teams following appeals against abatement notices served on Padel Courts in Bromsgrove District and a noisy water tank in a block of flats in Worcester City. Both unusual and novel issues.

Licensing

Written by **Kiran Lahel** (Licensing And Support Services Manager)

Quarter One

It is apparent from the data presented that licensing applications have once again followed previous trends and numbers have again increased this quarter. Officers themselves have noted a larger increase, and this has largely been due to the number of early TEN's being submitted for events and a high number of three year licence renewals due in April this year for Wyre Forest. On a positive note, we can see that complaints and queries are reducing, and this is largely due to the triaging process and the steady introduction of Victoria Forms our online form submission process. The team have worked hard on creating detailed FAQ's and piloting the forms with key stakeholders prior to being rolled out.

A number of key areas have been noted to have increased officer input this quarter and have required either working with colleagues within the licensing team and Community Environmental Health, third parties or West Mercia Police.

Pavement Licensing

With all policies now introduced across the districts there has not only been an increase in application forms for this licence but also some non compliance visits required. Although work has commenced prior to summer there will be a requirement for another pavement licensing audit to take place prior to next spring and summer to ensure that everyone that requires a licence should have one in place. The introduction of the permanent scheme has allowed for a renewal licence which reduces the cost for businesses that already had a licence under the temporary regime.

Animal Licensing

Applications are again increasing in this area of work with more applications being received by the team for new licences. A project looking at 5* rated premises and undertaking interim visits by officers have unfortunately highlighted that not all businesses are keeping up standards and requirements as set out in the guidance long after an inspection has been carried out. As a result, a number of premises have had their licence suspended with officers providing advice and guidance to licence holders of the improvements required so that suspensions can be lifted. In this licencing regime if businesses have their star rating changed, or licence suspended or revoked they have a right of appeal to the first tier tribunal.

Taxis

Several districts have now been in touch through either Councillors, Licensing Chairs and operators or licence holders themselves to discuss the presence of 'Uber' in their areas and what can be done to prevent such a large presence. A report has been produced by the team and has started to be taken through the Licensing Committees in each district to explain the legislation and the limited amount of powers officers have. However, on a positive note the teams have also been engaging with colleagues at Wolverhampton City Council to arrange joint enforcement and compliance visits at night.

Joint Engagement

Officers have seen an increase in engagement activity on SAGs/Event Management Plans for large festivals jointly with community environmental health colleagues. There are several large recurring festivals over the summer periods where event holders are getting in touch early to ensure there are no problems however there have also been a few new festivals that are receiving increasing number of concerns due to the nature of them taking place near residential properties. If objections are received for these events not covered by a TEN then these would need to go to a licensing Sub Committee to be determined.

Technical Services

Written by **Mark Cox** (Technical Services Manager)

Quarter One

The team were focused on production of the **air quality** Annual Status Reports (ASRs) for the six Districts prior to the end of June deadline but also continued to work on the draft air quality strategy in the background. In addition, following the review of real time monitoring data with deployment of the Earthsense Zephyr monitors last year, a number have been relocated.

As well as reviewing a number of priority sites, work on **contaminated land** has largely focused on the continued digitisation of records to enhance the services ability to respond to Environmental Information Requests.

In relation to **Planning and Environmental Enforcement**, a total of 9 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for fly-tipping and littering, and four Community Protection Warnings which progressed to four Community Protection Notices have been issued. In general, most planning enforcement matters are resolved by informal means or regularisation (through granting of planning consent retrospectively).

The number of **dogs** being reported as strays remains high and for quarter one is over 100 more than last year. The poor condition that a significant proportion of the dogs are found in is a worrying trend, such as a French Bull dog with a large mammary tumour, and others with a variety of infections, mange and emaciated. We also had a number of very young puppies and very old dogs, at 17 and 18 years of age. Such cases are difficult to cater for in terms of welfare whilst looked after by the Council and often presents a difficult task in obtaining a rehoming placement when not claimed. Unfortunately we have had an outbreak of parvovirus which is a highly contagious disease for dogs.

Towards the end of 2024, the Home Office announced that current guests in the UK under the **Homes for Ukraine** (HfU) scheme are eligible to apply for the Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) scheme. As nearly half of the guests on the HfU scheme arrived between April and July 2022 in Bromsgrove and Redditch, the team experienced a particularly busy period the first quarter of this financial year, dedicating significant time to reminding guests to apply and assisting them throughout the application process.

Support was also provided in cases where application decisions were delayed beyond expected timeframes. Unfortunately, one notable case involves a guest who arrived as an unaccompanied minor and applied for her UPE in May 2025. As of the end of Q1, she has yet to receive a decision. This delay has caused considerable distress, as it prevented her from attending a planned university trip to the United States as well as a long-awaited home visit to Ukraine. Such cases are emotionally taxing for the guests and time-consuming for the support workers.

While the Homes for Ukraine scheme has generally received positive feedback, some challenges remain. In May, one host faced significant criticism from their family for their involvement in the scheme, ultimately leading to their withdrawal. As a result, the guest had to be relocated to temporary accommodation, a transition that was fully supported by the team.

During Q1 there were new arrivals across the 2 districts which WRS support with this work (4 adults and 4 children). There are currently 15 hosts in Bromsgrove (17 adults / 13 children) and 17 hosts in Redditch (20 adults / 9 children). Support Workers continue to provide assistance to all hosts and guests remaining on the Homes for Ukraine scheme, as well as to those guests who have transitioned to independent accommodation.

Dog Control

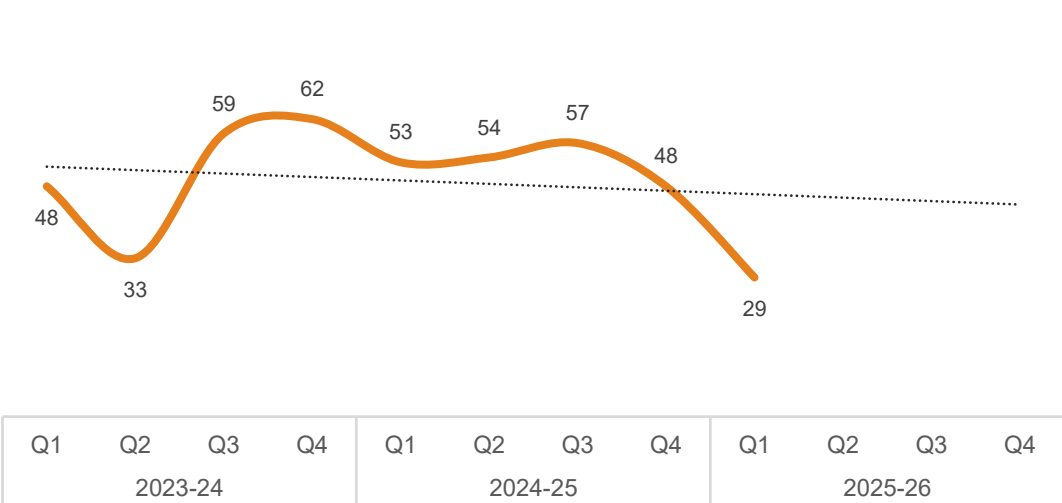
The data on this page shows the number of dog control cases (complaints, enquiries, and reports of lost or stray dogs) handled by the service over a three-year period. Complaints reported to WRS include reports of dangerous dogs, reports of dog fouling, and reports of dogs persistently straying. Complaints relating to the welfare of dogs, however, are investigated by the RSPCA and West Mercia Police unless the dog is found to be straying.

Comments

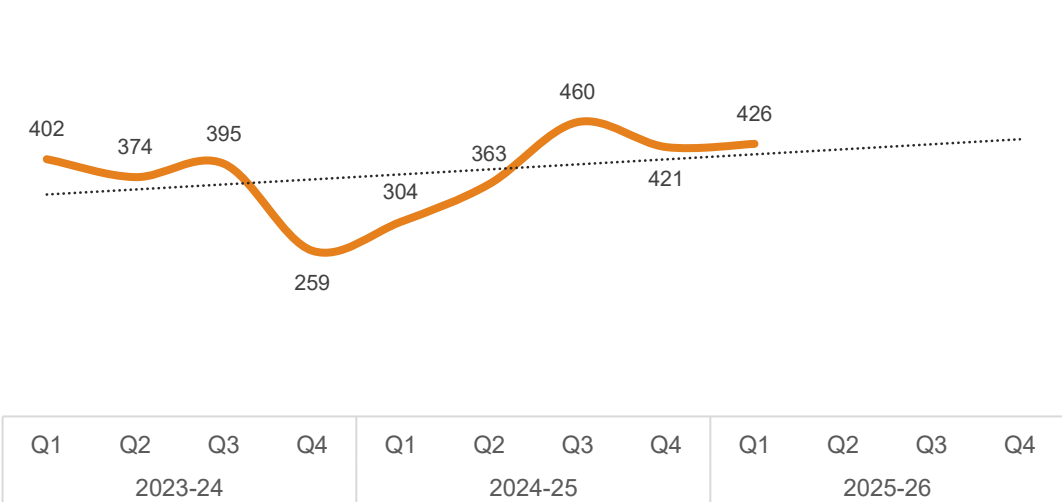
The number of cases received during the first quarter is an increase of 27% compared to 2024/25 but an increase of 1% compared to 2023/24. Approximately 94% of cases have been reports of lost or stray dogs with most cases categorised as "contained strays" (meaning dogs were found and held by members of the public). There has, however, been a notable increase in the number of dogs picked up with welfare concerns and subsequently requiring veterinary treatment or examination. Approximately 37% of dogs have been successfully reunited with their owners although this figure varies significantly between local authorities and is around 50% across Worcestershire.

In general terms, the service receives a low number of dog control complaints and enquiries each quarter. Based on the 11 complaints received during the first quarter, 6 have related to dogs that were persistently straying from residential properties whilst 4 cases have related to dog fouling.

Complaints and Enquiries



Reports of Lost or Stray Dogs



Food Safety

The data on this page outlines the number of food safety cases (complaints, enquiries, and notifications) handled by the service over a three year period. The data also outlines the number of food safety interventions undertaken at premises included in the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. Complaints reported to WRS relate to food products and premises, however, complaints regarding the composition and labelling of food (including allergen labelling) are primarily investigated by Worcestershire Trading Standards Service. Enquiries handled by the WRS include requests for business advice, requests for hygiene ratings, and requests for export health certificates which are required by businesses seeking to export food to Northern Ireland, the European Union, and non-EU countries.

Comments

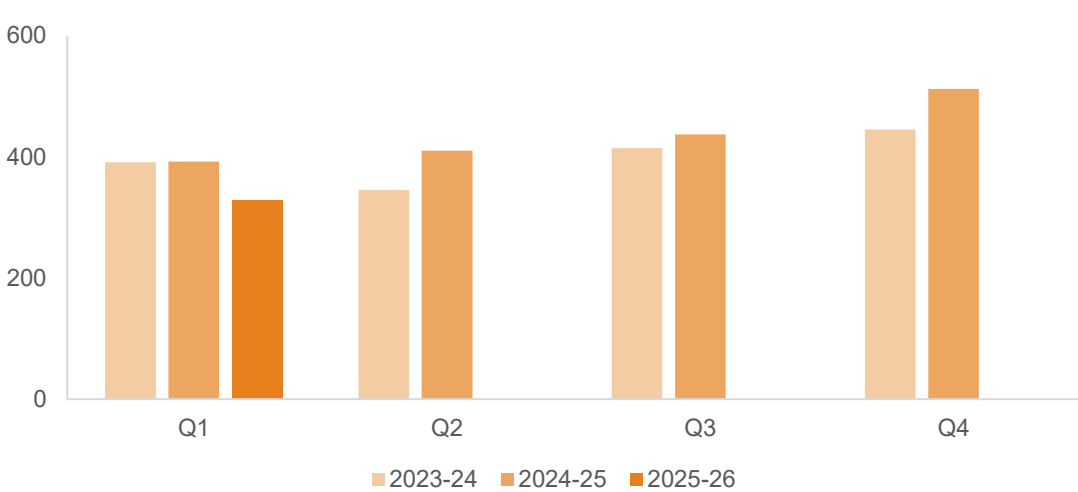
The number of cases received during the first quarter is an increase of 5% compared to 2024/25 but an increase of 20% compared to 2023/24. The service tends to receive a greater number of enquiries (including requests for business advice) than complaints. Based on the complaints received during the first quarter, however, 72% have related to issues with food products (such as poor quality food or food containing a foreign object) whilst 28% have related to poor hygiene standards or practices at food businesses.

Based on the 329 interventions undertaken during the first quarter, 5% resulted in a business being rated as "non-compliant" (issued a rating of 0, 1, or 2). In parallel with previous quarters, however, a higher proportion of non-compliant ratings were issued to the hospitality sector (such as takeaways and restaurants) or small retailers. To find out more about food hygiene ratings, please visit <https://ratings.food.gov.uk>.

Complaints and Enquiries



FHRS Interventions



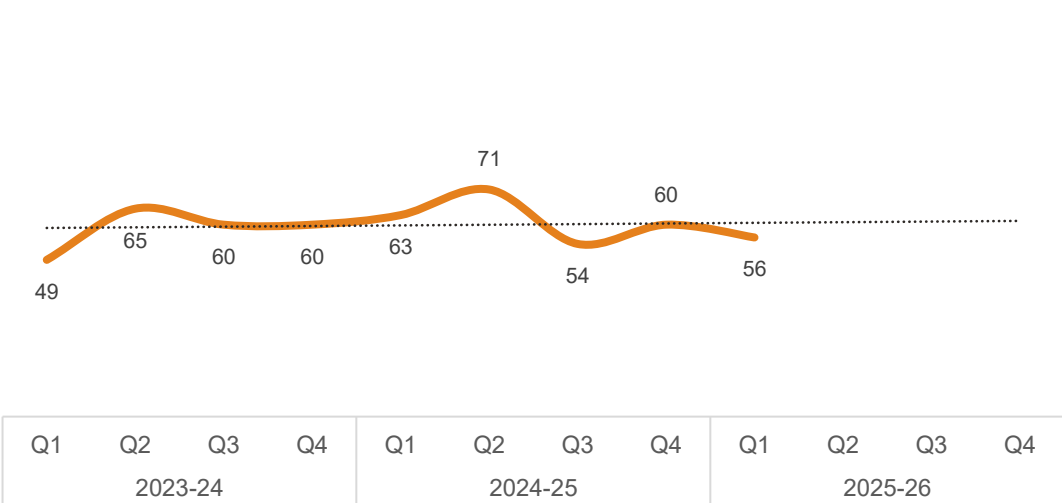
Health & Safety

The data on this page outlines the number of health and safety cases (complaints, enquiries, and reports of accidents in the workplace) handled by the service over a three-year period. Investigations are only undertaken by WRS where they relate to premises such as retail outlets, offices, leisure services, hospitality premises, and cosmetology premises. Other premises, such as factories and medical premises, fall with the remit of the Health and Safety Executive.

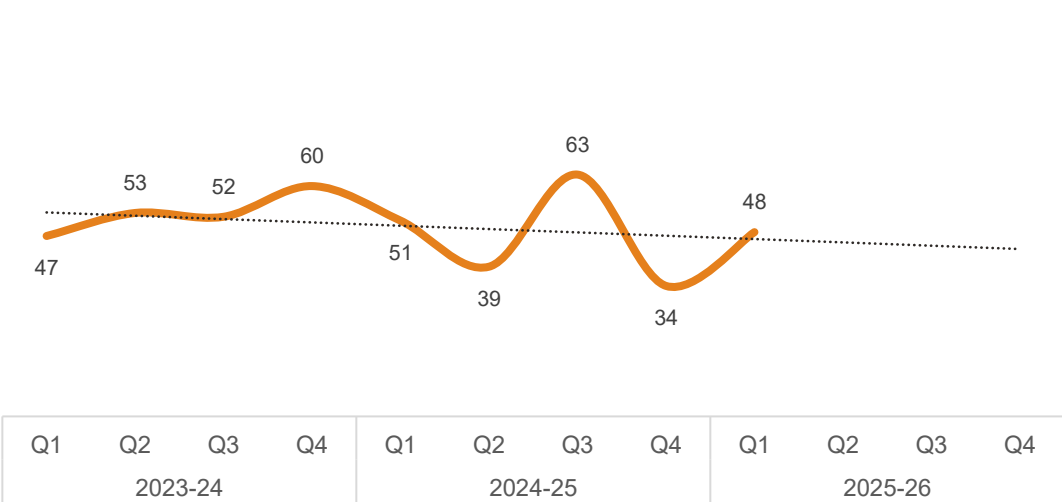
Comments

The number of cases received during the first quarter is a reduction of 9% compared to 2024/25 but an increase of 8% compared to 2023/24. Approximately 46% of cases have been reports of accidents in workplaces with most cases relating to injuries where a worker was incapacitated for more than seven days or injuries to members of the public. In parallel with previous quarters, most accidents have occurred due to slips, trips, and falls (whether on the same level or from height). Sadly, the service investigated a fatality during quarter one after a volunteer was struck by a vehicle.

Complaints and Enquiries

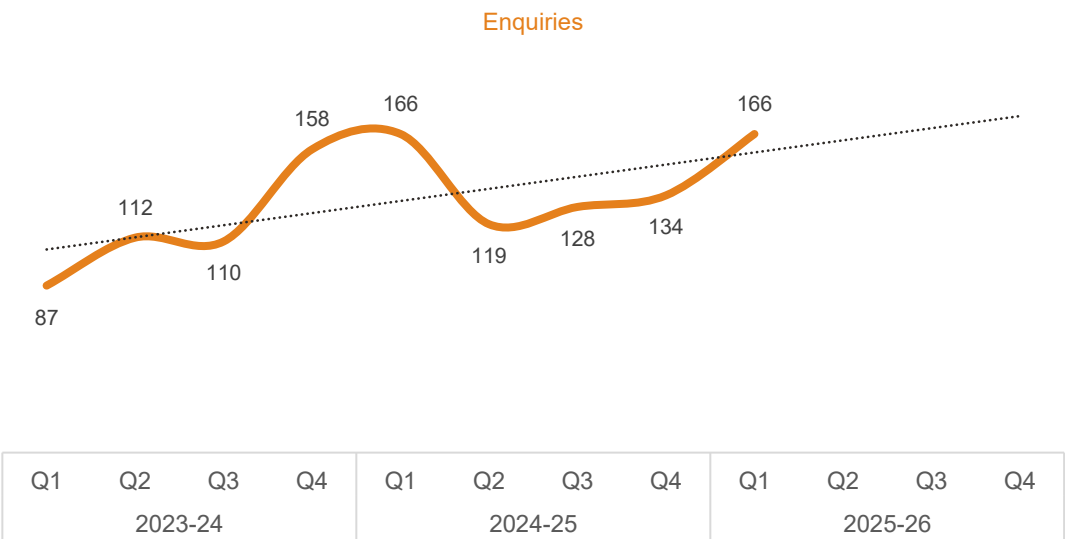


Accident Reports



Information Requests

The data on this page outlines the number of information requests handled by the service over a three-year period. Requests for information are generally received from the public, or private sector companies, and are made under the Environmental Information Regulations, the Freedom of Information Act, and the Data Protection Act (including Subject Access Requests). The service also handles requests for information from other local authorities, or law enforcement agencies, for the prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.



Licensing

The data on this page outlines the number of licensing cases (complaints, enquiries, applications, and registrations) handled by the service over a three-year period. Complaints reported to WRS can relate to licenced and unlicensed activitiy, however, cases generally relate to the following areas:

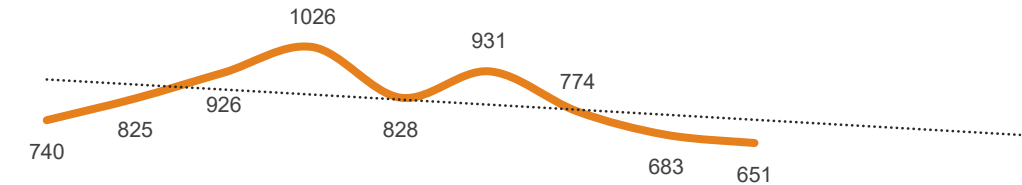
- Alcohol and Entertainment
- Animals
- Caravans
- Gambling
- Scrap Metal
- Sex Establishments
- Skin Piercing
- Street Trading, Amenities, and Collections
- Taxis

Comments

The number of cases received during the first quarter is a reduction of 12% compared to 2024/25 but an increase of 3% compared to 2023/24. Approximately 71% of cases have been applications and registrations with 28% of cases relating to tempoary events and 27% of cases realting to hackney carriage or private hire vehicles.

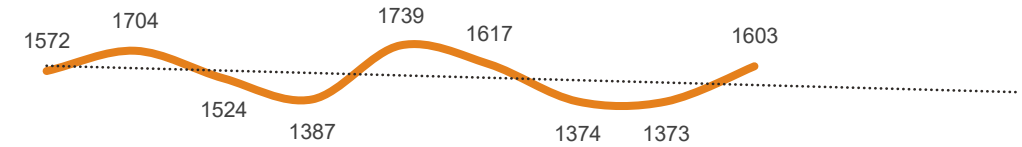
In general terms, the service receives a higher number of enquiries (such as queries about regulations, by-laws, and licence conditions) compared to complaints. Based on the complaints received during the first quarter, however, approximately 38% have related to taxi licensing (such as reports of poor driver behaviour, unauthorised parking, or poor driving standards) and 30% have related to alcohol licensing (businesss breaching the lciensing objectives). A further 9% of complaints have related to animal licensing with most cases relating to the unlicensed breeding and/or sale of dogs.

Complaints and Enquiries



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

Applications and Registrations



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

Planning

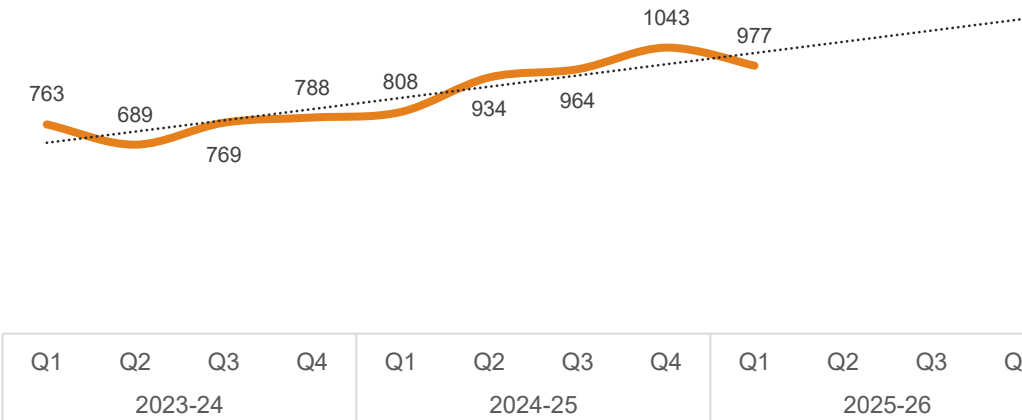
The data on this page outlines the number of planning enquiries handled by the service over a three-year period. Planning enquiries processed by WRS are either consultations or requests to discharge planning conditions, however, enquiries only relate to the following areas:

- Air Quality
- Contaminated Land
- Environmnetal Permitting
- Food
- Health and Safety
- Nuisance
- Private Water Supplies

Comments

The number of enquiries received during the first quarter is an increase of 21% compared to 2024/25 and an increase of 28% compared to 2023/24. Approximately 93% of enquiries were consultations for air quality, contaminated land, or nuisances; whilst approximately 1 in 4 enquiries were processed (on a contractual basis) on behalf of other local authorities.

Planning Enquiries



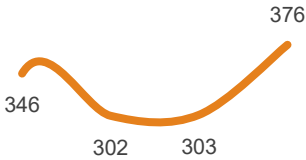
Planning Enforcement & Enviromental Crime

The data on this page outlines the number of planning enforcement and enviromental crime cases (complaints and notifications) handled by the service over a three-year period. Complaints reported to WRS include reports of fly-tipping, littering, and planning breaches at residential or commercial premises. The planning enforcement and enviromental crime functions are only delivered on behalf of Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils and have only been within the remit of the service since June 2024.

Comments

There is currently no comparable temporal data available for the planning enforcement and enviro-crime fuctions. The figures presented show a combined total of incidents and, based on the 376 cases investigated during the first quarter, approximately 65% have been reports of fly-tipping whilst 32% have related to planning breaches at residential or commercial properties.

Complaints and Notifications



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

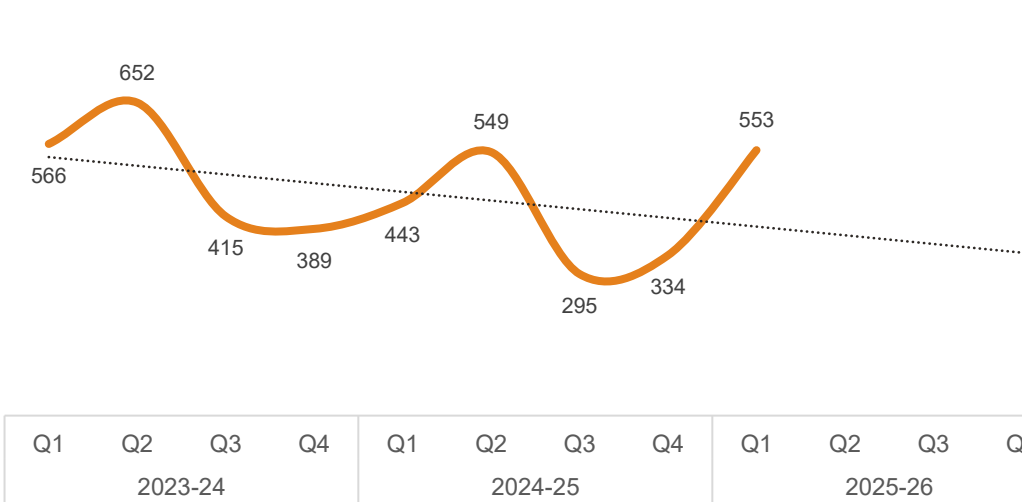
Pollution

The data on this page outlines the number of pollution cases (complaints and enquiries) handled by the service over a three-year period. Complaints reported to WRS include reports of nuisances (noise, light, odour, smoke) resulting from domestic, commerical, or agricultural activity and notifications of contamination incidents.

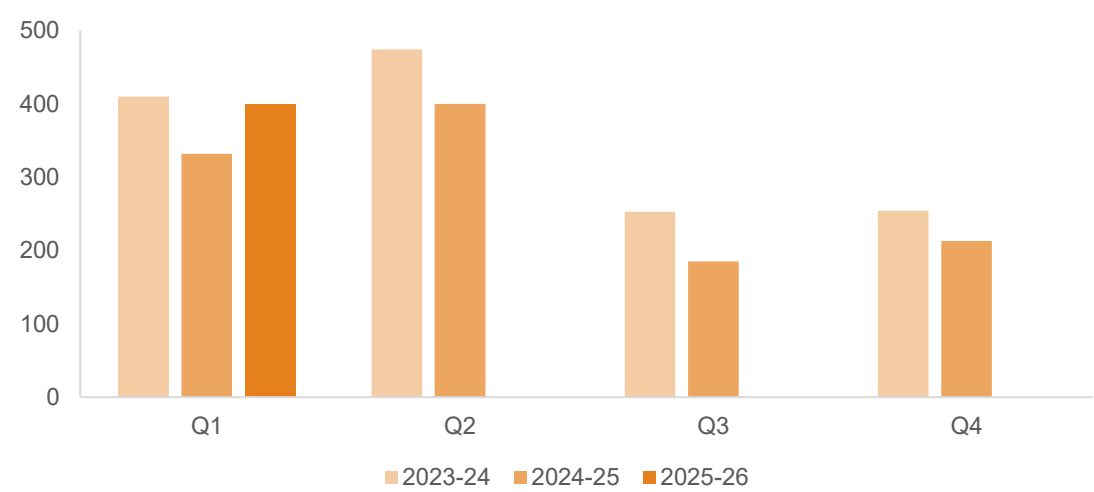
Comments

The number of cases received during the first quarter is an increase of 25% compared to 2024/25 but a reduction of 2% compared to 2023/24. Approximately 91% of cases have been reports of nuisances with around 45% of cases relating to noise from domestic properties (such as noise from barking dogs or audi-visual equipment). In parrallel with other quarters, other prominent nuisances were nosie from hospitality businesses, smoke from the burning of domestic or commercial waste, and dust from construction sites.

Complaints and Enquiries



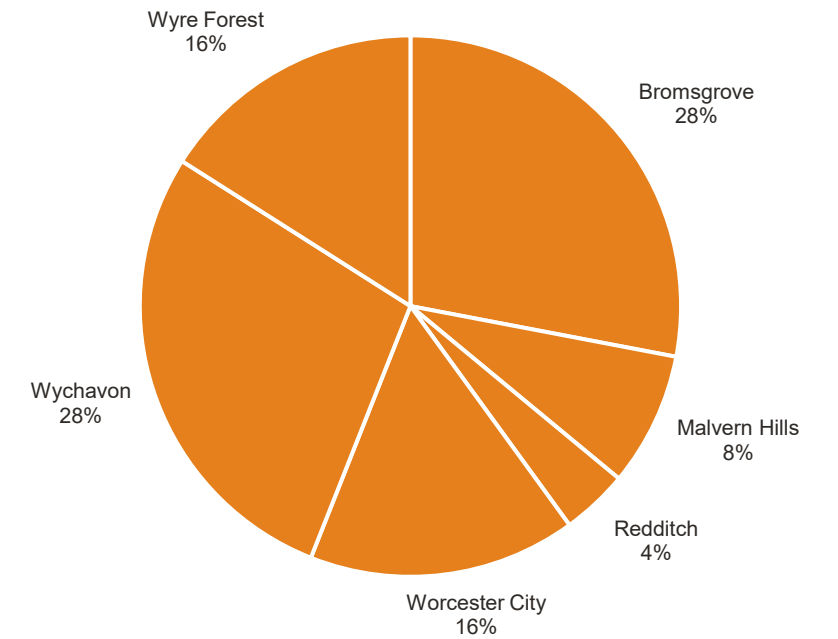
Complaints and Enquiries (Noise Only)



Noise

The data on this page outlines the wards in Worcestershire which have the highest rates of noise pollution cases. It also shows the districts where these wards are located.

Note: The figures in the table are cumulative and will continue to increase until the end of year report is published in April 2026. Where a ward is highlighted, it was also one of the top 10 wards featured in the 2024/25 Activity Report.



Ward	Total	Population	Rate
Droitwich Central	5	2,621	1.91
Little Hampton	10	5,899	1.70
Dodderhill	4	2,809	1.42
Wythall East	4	2,965	1.35
Perryfields	2	1,557	1.28
Catshill South	4	3,241	1.23
Hagley East	3	2,647	1.13
Drakes Broughton	3	2,711	1.11
Aggborough And Spennells	9	8,774	1.03
Barnt Green And Hopwood	3	2,951	1.02
Wythall West	3	2,979	1.01
Saint Peters Parish	5	5,310	0.94
Wribbenhall And Arley	5	5,381	0.93
Baldwin	2	2,216	0.90
Bedwardine	7	8,107	0.86
Woodbury	2	2,327	0.86
Headless Cross And Oakenshaw	7	8,282	0.85
Foley Park And Hoobrook	9	10,689	0.84
Great Hampton	3	3,677	0.82
Saint John	7	8,736	0.80
Norton	3	3,876	0.77
Droitwich West	4	5,217	0.77
Cathedral	9	11,760	0.77
Bredon	2	2,645	0.76
Broadwaters	7	9,381	0.75

Public Health

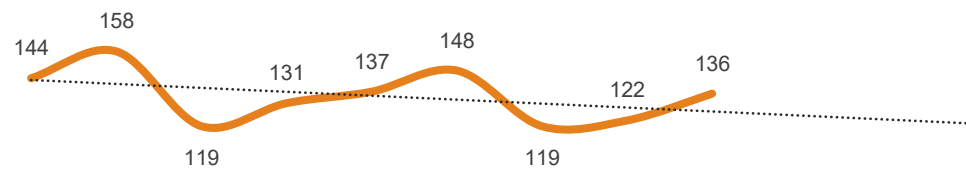
The data on this page outlines the number of public health cases (complaints and enquiries) handled by the service over a three-year period. The data also shows the number of domestic subsidised treatments carried out by contractors. Complaints reported to WRS include reports of accumulations and reports of pests due to the activities of local residents or businesses. Pest control treatments are offered by five of the districts, however, Wyre Forest District Council does not offer a subsidised pest control service.

Comments

The number of cases received during the first quarter is broadly comparable to 2024/25 but a reduction of 6% compared to 2023/24. Approximately 49% of cases have related to pest control such as enquiries about domestic treatments, enquiries about sewer baiting, or complaints about pest activity caused by the actions of neighbouring residents or businesses. A further 26% of cases have related to accumulations at residential properties, however, such complaints commonly reference the prescence of rodents or other pests.

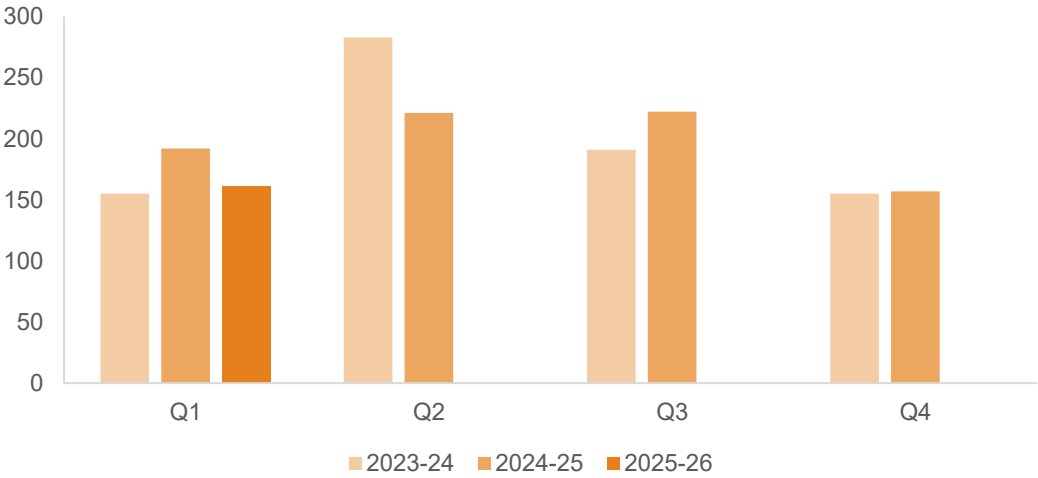
Based on the 161 domestic treatments undertaken by pest control contractors during the first quarter, 55% were due to issues with rats whilst 66% have taken place at properties in the Redditch or Wychavon district.

Complaints and Enquiries



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

Domestic Subsidised Treatments

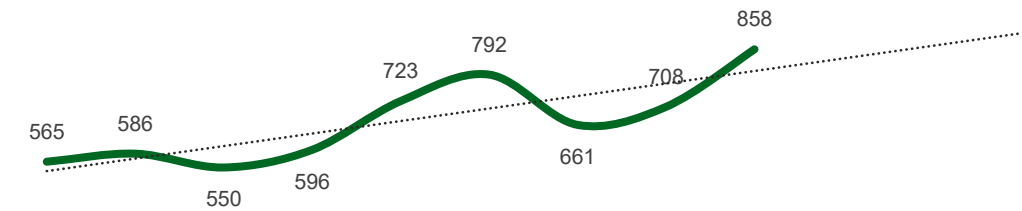


Bromsgrove

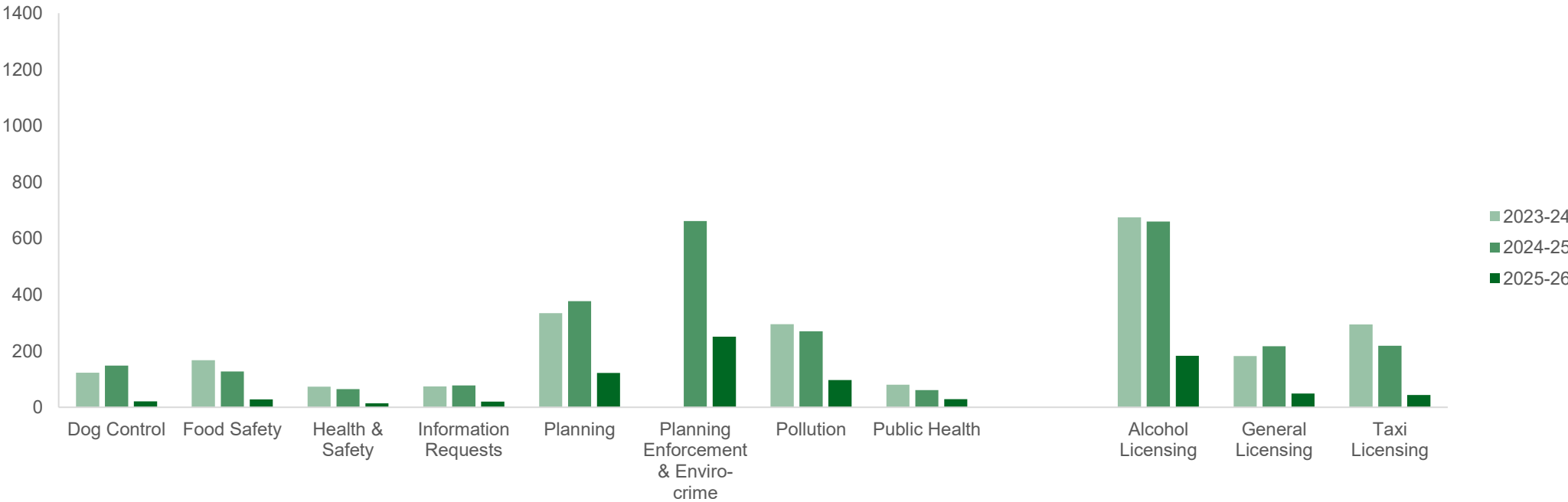
The data on this page outlines the number of complaints, enquiries, applications, and notifications handled by WRS over a three-year period where the subject and/or enquirer were located in the Bromsgrove district. The data also shows a breakdown of these cases by the primary functions delivered by the service.

Note: The recent increase in cases can be attributed to the additional functions (enviro-crime and planning enforcement) now being delivered. The figures for the current year are cumulative and will continue to increase until the end of year report is published in April 2026. In addition, the Y axis on the chart below has been standardised so the level of demand received against each function can be broadly compared to other districts.

Complaints, Enquiries, Applications, and Notifications



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

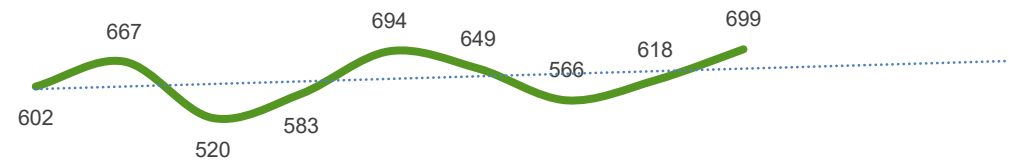


Malvern Hills

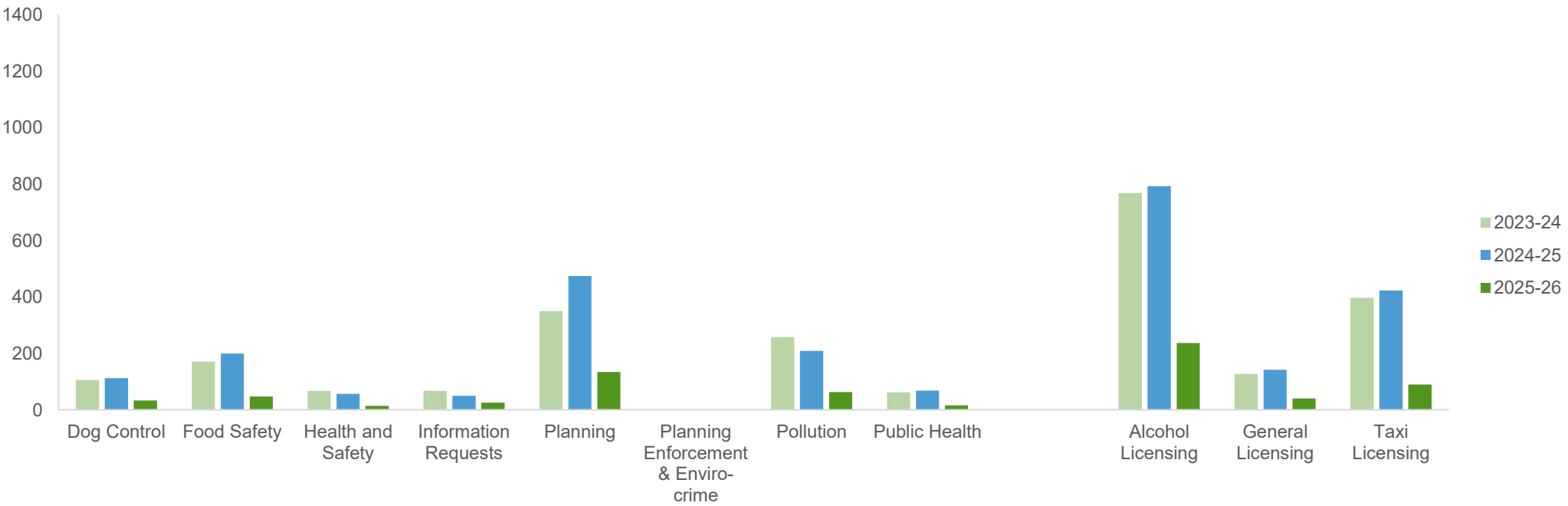
The data on this page outlines the number of complaints, enquiries, applications, and notifications handled by WRS over a three-year period where the subject and/or enquirer were located in the Malvern Hills district. The data also shows a breakdown of these cases by the primary functions delivered by the service.

Note: The figures for the current year are cumulative and will continue to increase until the end of year report is published in April 2026. In addition, the Y axis on the chart below has been standardised so the level of demand received against each function can be broadly compared to other districts.

Complaints, Enquiries, Applications, and Notificaitons



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

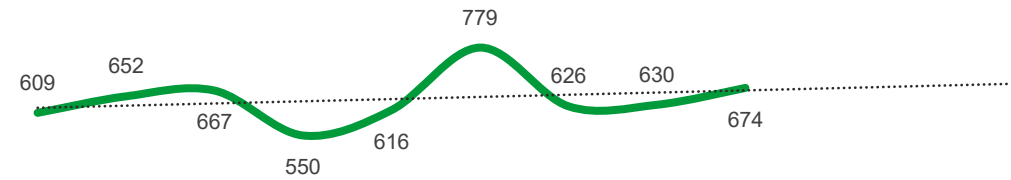


Redditch

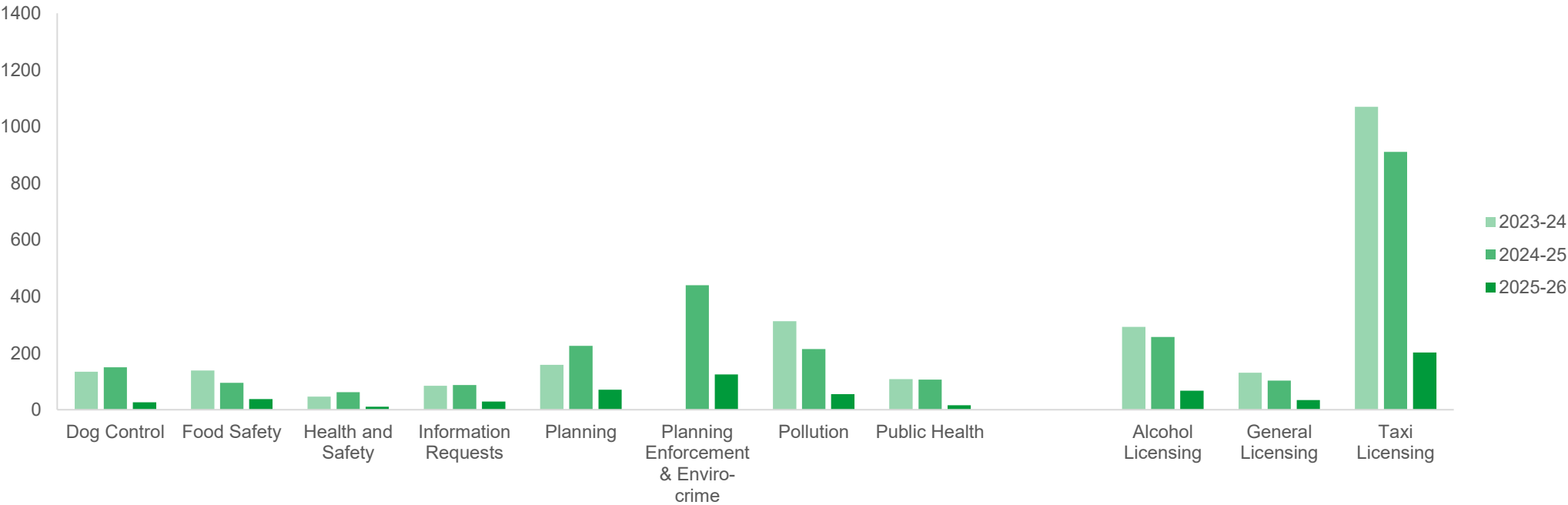
The data on this page outlines the number of complaints, enquiries, applications, and notifications handled by WRS over a three-year period where the subject and/or enquirer were located in the Redditch district. The data also shows a breakdown of these cases by the primary functions delivered by the service.

Note: The recent increase in cases can be attributed to the additional functions (enviro-crime and planning enforcement) now being delivered. The figures for the current year are cumulative and will continue to increase until the end of year report is published in April 2026. In addition, the Y axis on the chart below has been standardised so the level of demand received against each function can be broadly compared to other districts.

Complaints, Enquiries, Applications, and Notifications



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

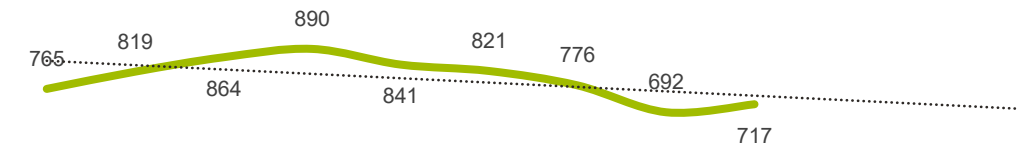


Worcester City

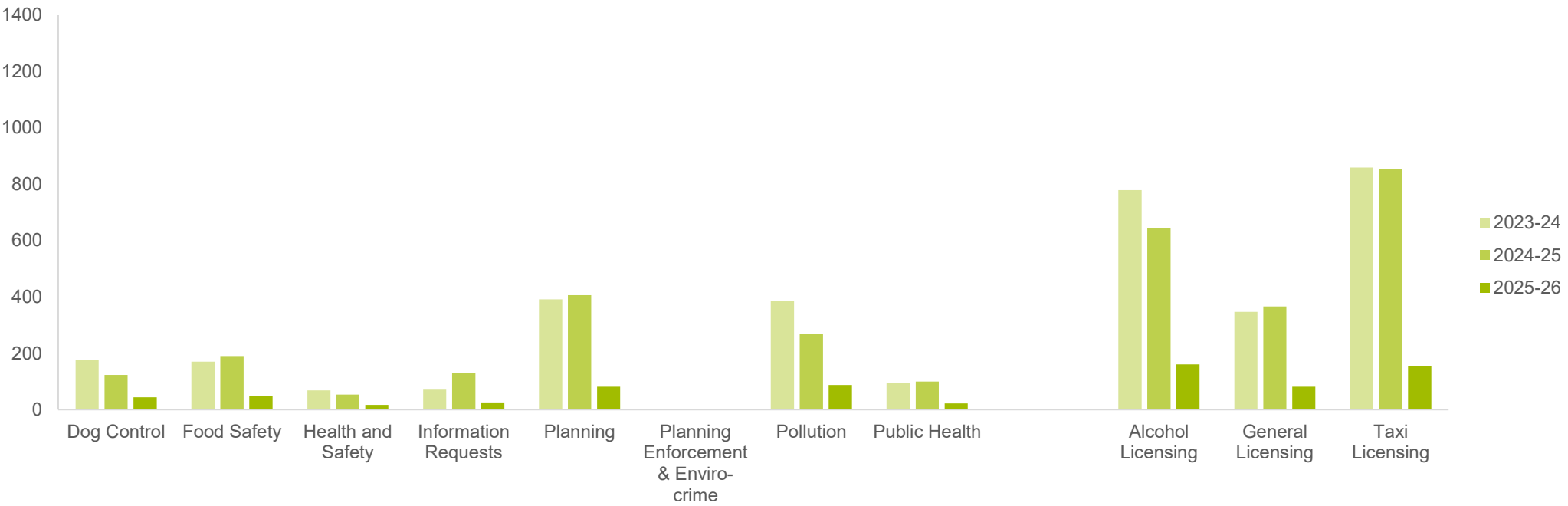
The data on this page outlines the number of complaints, enquiries, applications, and notifications handled by WRS over a three-year period where the subject and/or enquirer were located in the Worcester City district. The data also shows a breakdown of these cases by the primary functions delivered by the service.

Note: The figures for the current year are cumulative and will continue to increase until the end of year report is published in April 2026. In addition, the Y axis on the chart below has been standardised so the level of demand received against each function can be broadly compared to other districts.

Complaints, Enquiries, Applications, and Notificaitons



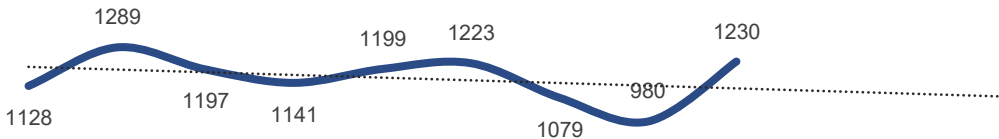
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			



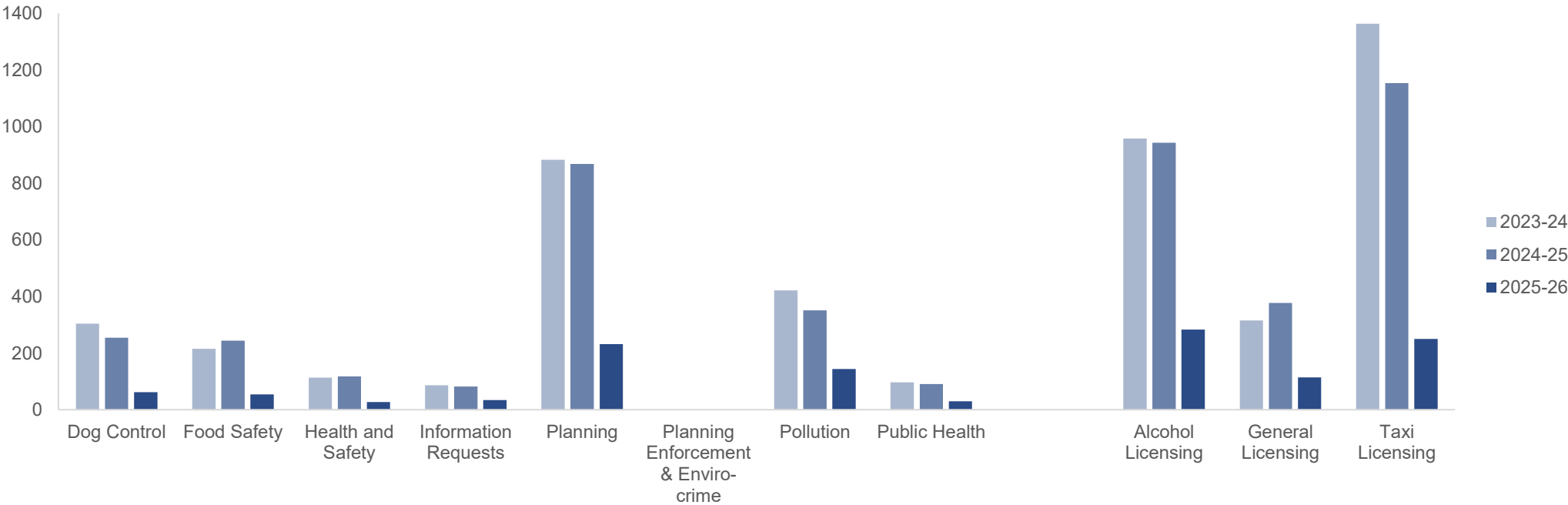
The data on this page outlines the number of complaints, enquiries, applications, and notifications handled by WRS over a three-year period where the subject and/or enquirer were located in the Wychavon district. The data also shows a breakdown of these cases by the primary functions delivered by the service.

Note: The figures for the current year are cumulative and will continue to increase until the end of year report is published in April 2026. In addition, the Y axis on the chart below has been standardised so the level of demand received against each function can be broadly compared to other districts.

Complaints, Enquiries, Applications, and Notificaitons



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

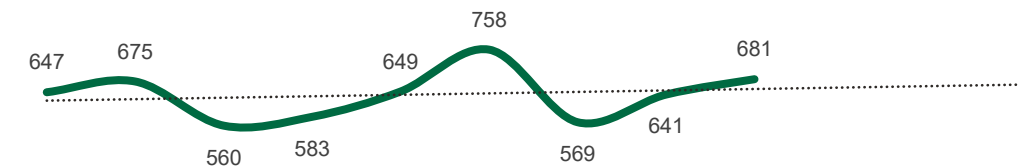


Wyre Forest

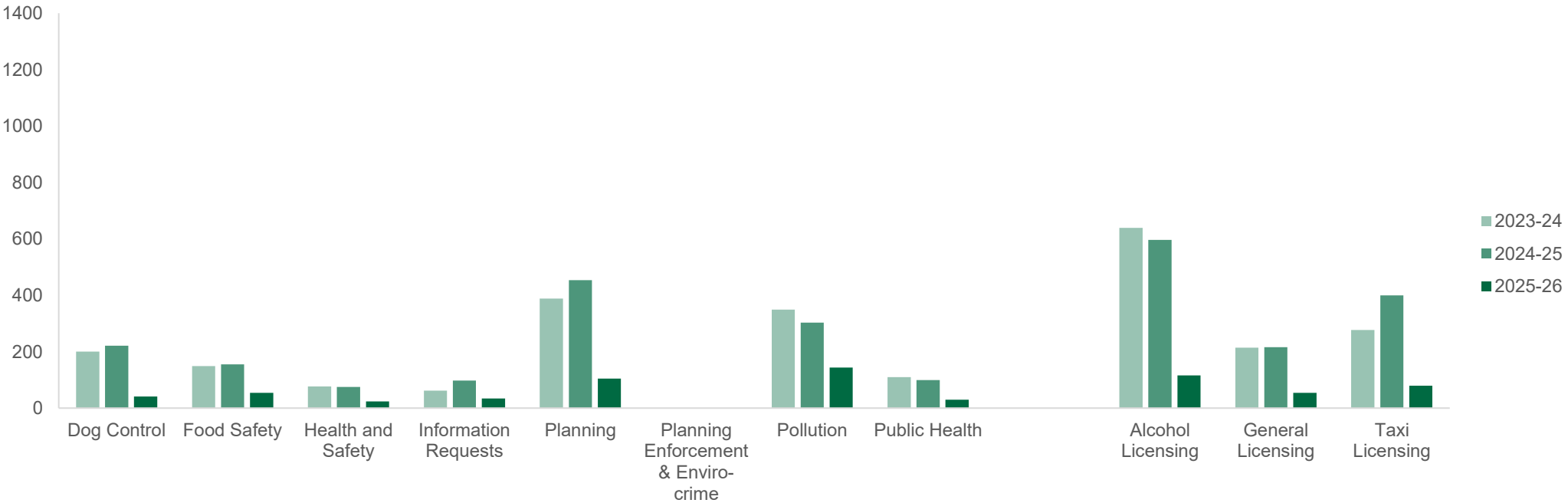
The data on this page outlines the number of complaints, enquiries, applications, and notifications handled by WRS over a three-year period where the subject and/or enquirer were located in the Wyre Forest district. The data also shows a breakdown of these cases by the primary functions delivered by the service.

Note: The figures for the current year are cumulative and will continue to increase until the end of year report is published in April 2026. In addition, the Y axis on the chart below has been standardised so the level of demand received against each function can be broadly compared to other districts.

Complaints, Enquiries, Applications, and Notificaitons



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023-24				2024-25				2025-26			

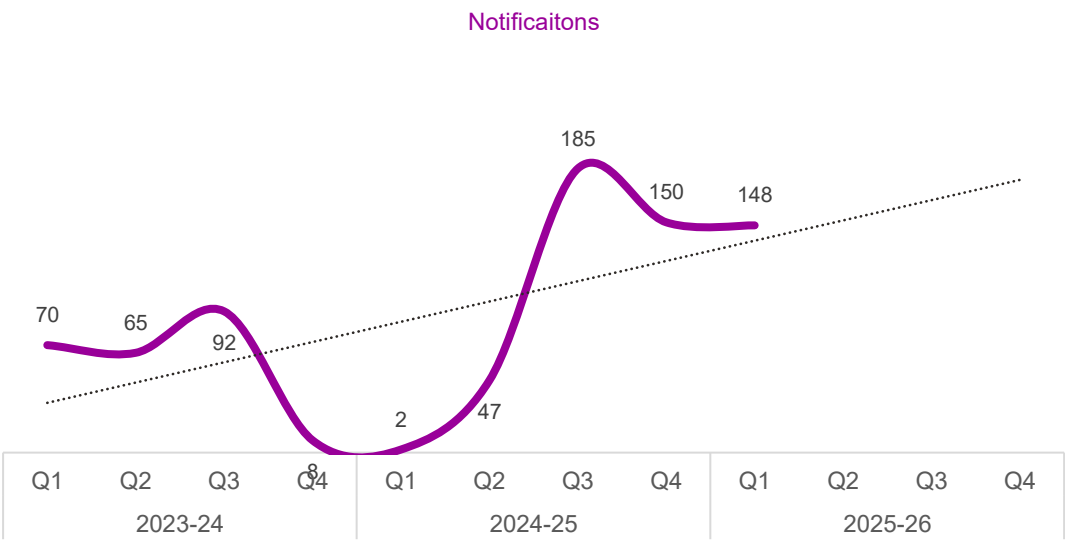


Birmingham City

The data on this page outlines the number of planning enquiries processed by the service on behalf of Birmingham City Council.

We currently, and historically, have only ever provided services in relation to dog control. We commenced provision of an out of hours stray dog kennelling, reuniting with owners and rehoming of unwanted stray dog service which continued until Q1 2022-23 with finders dropping off dogs out of hours which they had found. Unfortunately we lost the use of the kennels we were primarily using to service this contract and, as a result, changed the contract delivery to include collection of stray dogs. This increased the number of dogs received, kennelled and rehomed, reducing the number of dogs Birmingham City might see as strays in the future. In Q4 2023-24, the out of hours contract arrangements with Birmingham ceased with assistance being provided on an ad hoc basis only until a new contract for kennelling of all Birmingham stray dogs commenced.

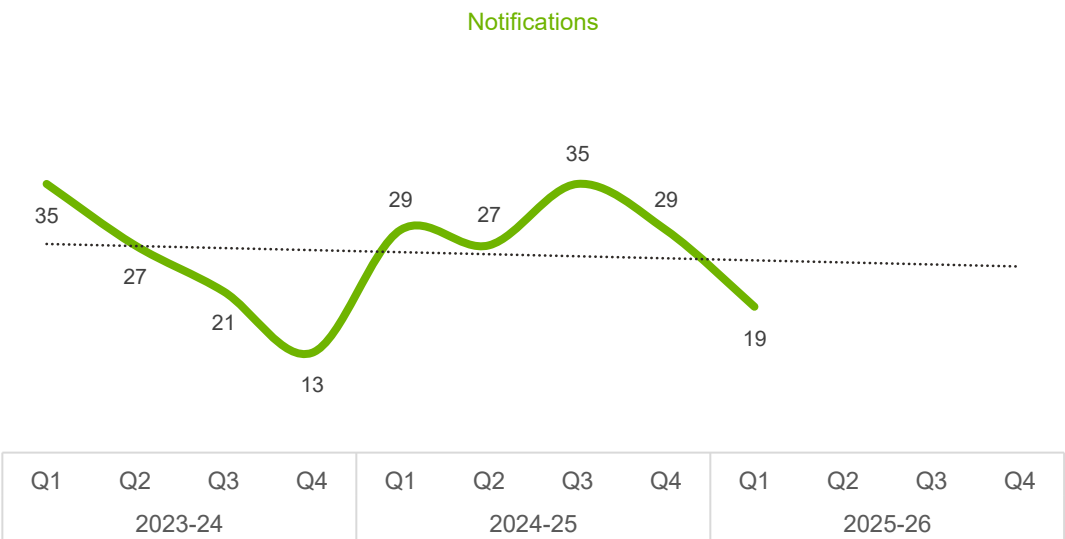
The new contract arrangement, which started on 1st September 2024, includes the receipt of stray dogs (deposited by Birmingham City Dog Wardens) to our kennelling facilities, where we facilitate reunification, rehoming or where a banned or dangerous dog, arrange euthanasia. We envisage there to be in excess of 1200 stray dogs a year received through this contract. Our experience since the new contract is that 50% of the XL Bully dogs we receive as strays are from Birmingham City Council area. Of the other dogs seized as strays, a significant proportion are larger bull or status breeds.



Cheltenham

The data on this page outlines the number of dog control cases (reports of lost or stray dogs) handled by the service on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council.

The dog control work undertaken for the authority is part of a contract with two other Gloucestershire authorities to deliver the collection, kennelling, returning of dogs to owners, and rehoming of stray dog functions. The contract was recently renewed and has been highly successful in reducing stray dog numbers for Cheltenham Borough Council as well as utilising existing WRS resource and expertise. Having said that, post-pandemic stray dog numbers have been increasing year on year following the issues widely reported about dog socialisation and anxiety since as well as the current cost of living crisis.



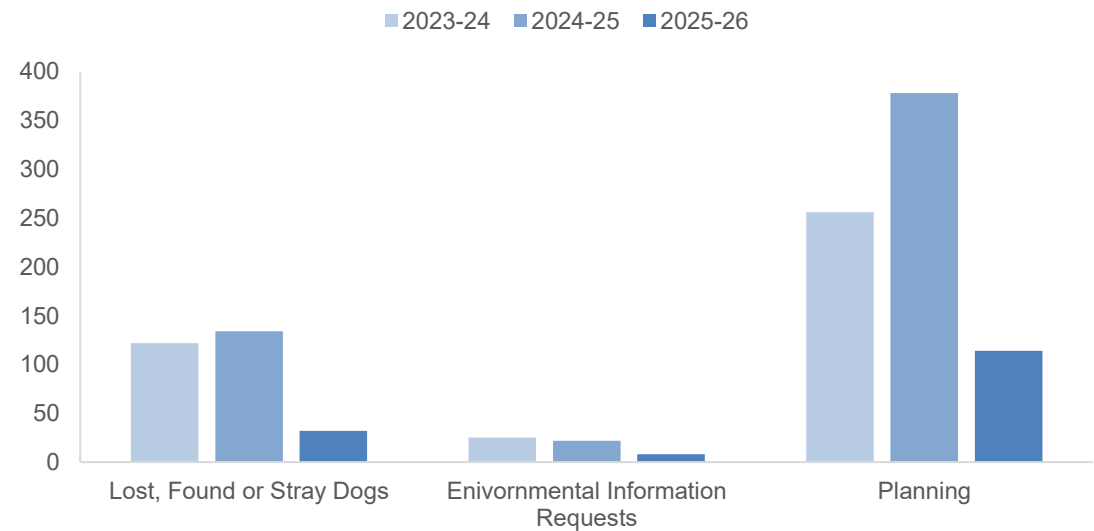
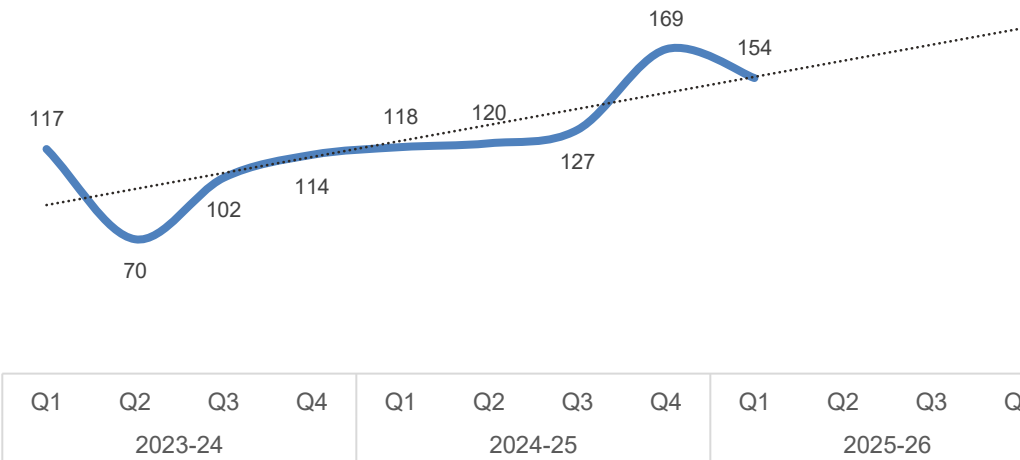
Gloucester City

The data on this page outlines the number of dog control cases (reports of lost or stray dogs), environmental information requests, and planning enquiries handled by the service on behalf of Gloucester City Council.

The dog control work undertaken for the authority is part of a contract with two other Gloucestershire authorities to deliver the collection, kennelling, returning of dogs to owners, and rehoming of stray dog functions. The contract was recently renewed and has been highly successful in reducing stray dog numbers for Gloucester City Council as well as utilising existing WRS resource and expertise. Such arrangements enable economies of scale to be realised and the continued retention of valuable assets to the benefit of Partner Authorities. The numbers of stray dogs are reducing annually, however, this is being closely monitored as the numbers are plateauing and there have been recent increases in the number of abandoned strays in other areas due to the cost of living crisis and post-COVID behaviour changes.

In addition to dog control activity, the service continues to deal with environmental information requests and planning enquiries.

Enquiries and Notifications



Tewkesbury

The data on this page outlines the number of dog control cases (reports of lost or stray dogs), and planning enquiries handled by the service on behalf of Tewkesbury Borough Council.

The dog control work undertaken for the authority is part of a contract with two other Gloucestershire authorities to deliver the collection, kennelling, returning of dogs to owners, and rehoming of stray dog functions. The contract was recently renewed and has been highly successful in reducing stray dog numbers for Tewkesbury Borough Council as well as utilising existing WRS resource and expertise. Such arrangements enable economies of scale to be realised and the continued retention of valuable assets to the benefit of Partner Authorities. As with other Gloucestershire and Worcestershire authorities, the numbers of stray dogs are reducing annually, however, this is being closely monitored as there have been recent increases in the number of abandoned strays in other areas due to the cost of living crisis and post-COVID behaviour changes.

In addition to dog control activity, the service has recommenced the provision of advice to Planning Officers on nuisance and air quality matters, following cessation of the service in Q4 2023-24 following a successful recruitment campaign.

Enquiries and Notifications

