

**The Environmental Rights
Centre for Scotland (ERCS)**

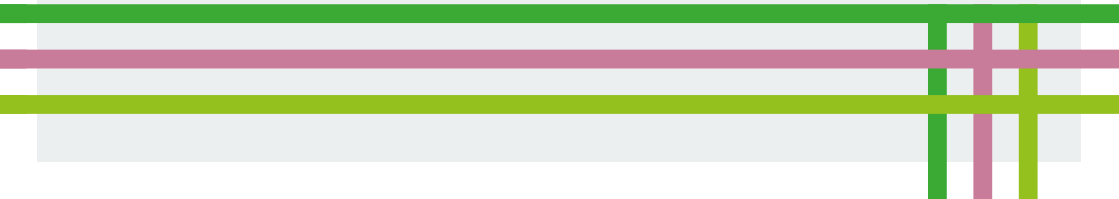
Snapshot of Advice Service

June 2021 – December 2022

In June 2021, ERCS launched Scotland's only free legal advice service in environmental and related planning law.

Our aim is to assist everyone, especially those who face the biggest barriers, to exercise their rights and hold public authorities and polluters to account on the environment.

This is a snapshot of enquiries to the advice service during its first eighteen months: between **1 June 2021** and **31 December 2022**.



Number of enquiries

We want to increase awareness and confidence in exercising environmental rights. We offer free advice to individuals, community groups and organisations on environmental and related planning law.



“ Your advice was instrumental in pursuing my case to the local authority, it gave me confidence to persist in my action, if not for your advice, I would have given up in frustration.”

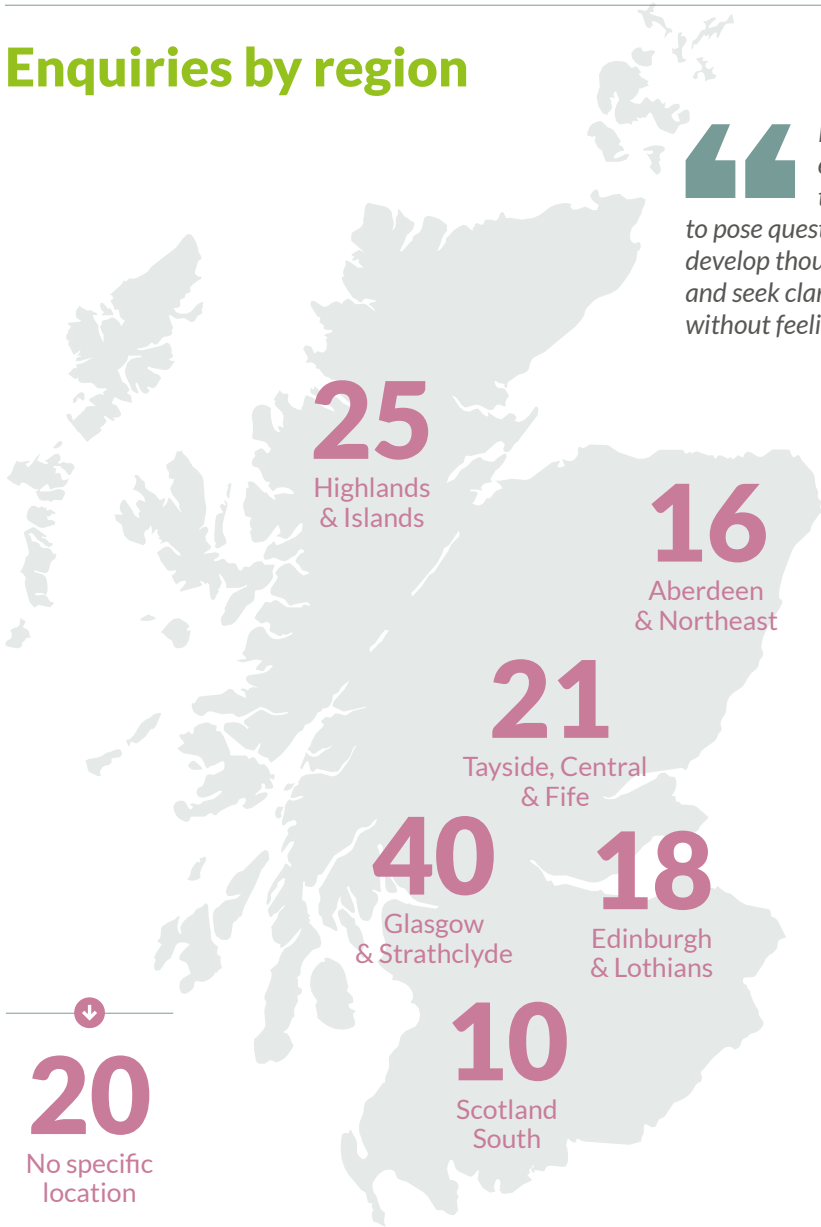
Our advice service

You can contact us if you are seeking specific advice on an environmental issue or a general enquiry. For example a worrying planning application or loss of greenspace in your neighbourhood. It could also be if you have a general question about environmental or related planning law, such as your rights to environmental information.

Enquiries by region



It was excellent to be able to pose questions, develop thoughts, and seek clarification without feeling rushed."

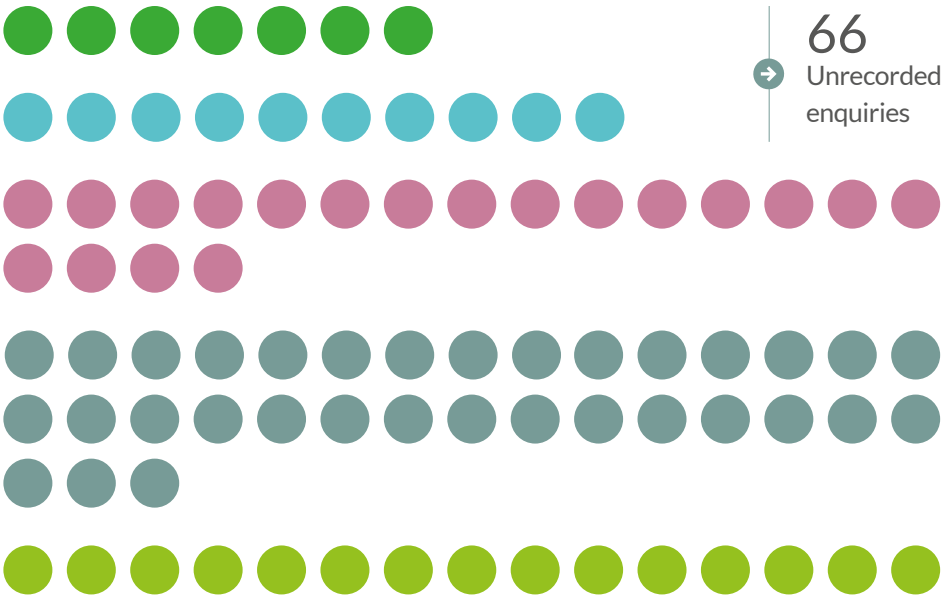


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No specific location

SIMD rank of enquiries

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation across 6,976 small areas. This was recorded for 84 of the 150 enquiries.



- 1-20% most deprived areas
- 21-40% most deprived areas
- 40-60% most deprived areas
- 21-40% least deprived areas
- 1-20% least deprived areas

“ It is empowering and encouraging to know that our little community campaign has the backing of a solicitor and organisation who are committed to the environment and, since the start, have been a source of invaluable advice and support. Power to your collective elbow!”

Breakdown of advice work

This is a breakdown of the advice work categorised by the broad environmental area(s) and then problem(s). Cases may cover more than one category.

Environmental area	Environmental problem	Total
Air	Air quality/pollution	10
Biodiversity	Invasive species/ non-native species	1
	Protecting species and habitat	27
	Site of special and scientific interest	-
Climate change	Climate change planning	1
	GHG emissions	1
Land and soil	Contaminated land	5
	Greenspace/bluespace	16
	Land use change and planning	-
	Soil health	1
Waste	Impact of waste	1
	Waste generation	-
	Waste management	5
Water	Aquaculture and fishing	3
	Drinking water quality	-
	Flooding and runoff	4
	Marine Protected areas	-
	Protected freshwater	1
	Sewage/contamination/sanitation	3
	Water quality/pollution	8
Other	Built environment	53
	Cultural heritage	2
	Food insecurity	-
	General environmental standards and legislation	10
	Noise/vibration	6
	Safety and security	3
	Statutory nuisance	9
Procedural rights	Access to information	7
	Participation in decision making	13
	Access to justice	6
Outside of remit		17



Before chatting, I felt I had no choice but to accept the dust pollution we were suffering... even our local council said we should accept "as part of modern life"!!"



The Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland (ERCS)

To support individuals and communities to use their rights to protect the environment, tackle climate change, and improve local biodiversity and greenspaces for health and wellbeing.

ERCS understands environmental law as including law relating to land-use planning, climate change, pollution control, environmental health, the conservation of biodiversity, and any other field (e.g. cultural heritage, transport and energy) to the extent that it impacts on the natural environment and/or the right to live in a healthy environment.

What can I do about an environmental problem?

Contact our Rights Officer to talk more at rights@ercs.scot
Contact our free legal advice service at www.ercs.scot/get-advice
Call our office on **0131 358 0038** or freephone on **0800 861 1738**