

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

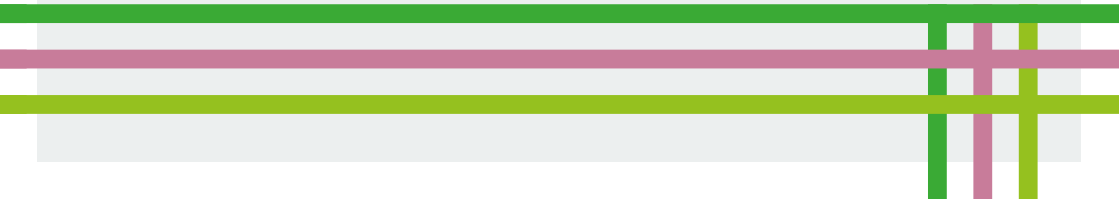
3-year Snapshot of Advice Service

325 enquiries

ERCS runs 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 the **first 325 enquiries** to our advice service up to June 2024.



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.



“Through the advice provided, our knowledge and understanding of environmental law has increased, as has our confidence in using such knowledge in campaigns.”



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. Or you might have a general question about environmental or related planning law, such as your rights to environmental information.

Enquiries by region



It feels reassuring to have run the details of our local situation past someone with some legal knowledge and an understanding of how to try and apply pressure.”

40

Highlands & Islands

32

Aberdeen & Northeast

45

Tayside, Central & Fife

70

Glasgow & Strathclyde

42

Edinburgh & Lothians

29

Scotland South

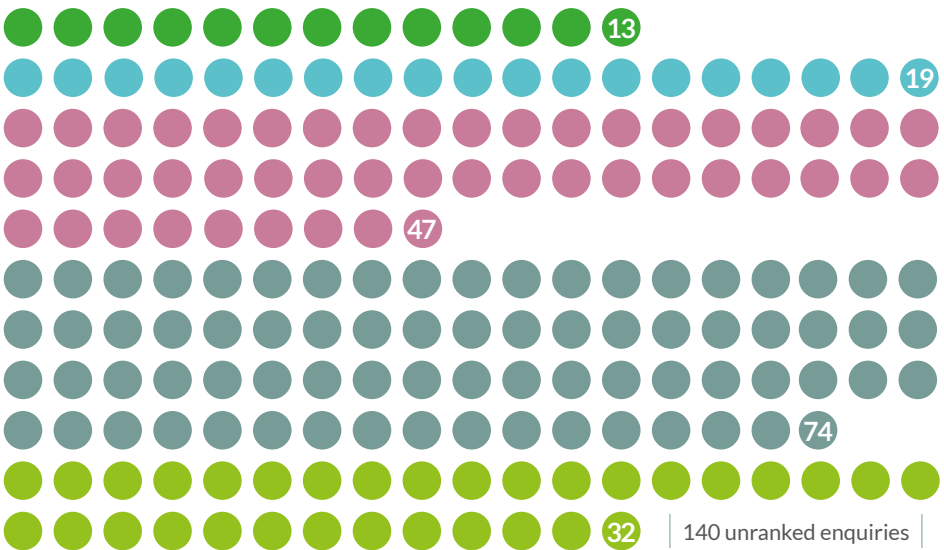


67

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 185 of the 325 enquiries. It was not recorded for enquiries from organisations or which were signposted to other services.



- 1-20% most deprived areas
- 21-40% most deprived areas
- 41-60% most deprived areas
- 21-40% least deprived areas
- 1-20% least deprived areas

“ Knowledge improved considerably, would trust advice, what was possible and what not, and in particular not glossing over the risks involved.”

Breakdown of advice work

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

Environmental area	Environmental problem	Total
Air	Air quality/pollution	30
Biodiversity	Invasive species/ non-native species	5
	Protecting species and habitat	73
	Site of special and scientific interest	1
Climate change	Climate change planning	7
	GHG emissions	8
Land and soil	Contaminated land	12
	Greenspace/bluespace	43
	Soil health	4
Waste	Impact of waste	3
	Waste generation	1
	Waste management	8
Water	Aquaculture and fishing	3
	Drinking water quality	1
	Flooding and runoff	7
	Marine Protected areas	-
	Protected freshwater	3
	Sewage/contamination/sanitation	6
	Water quality/pollution	17
Other	Built environment	76
	Cultural heritage	4
	Food insecurity	-
	General environmental standards and legislation	21
	Noise/vibration	12
	Safety and security	6
	Statutory nuisance	13
Procedural rights	Access to information	22
	Participation in decision making	75
	Access to justice	11



So much environmental assault and it gives confidence to know you can seek top class advice."



The Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland (ERCS)

We 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**

ercs.scot  [ercscot](https://www.instagram.com/ercscot)  [environmental rights centre for scotland](https://www.linkedin.com/company/environmental-rights-centre-for-scotland)

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