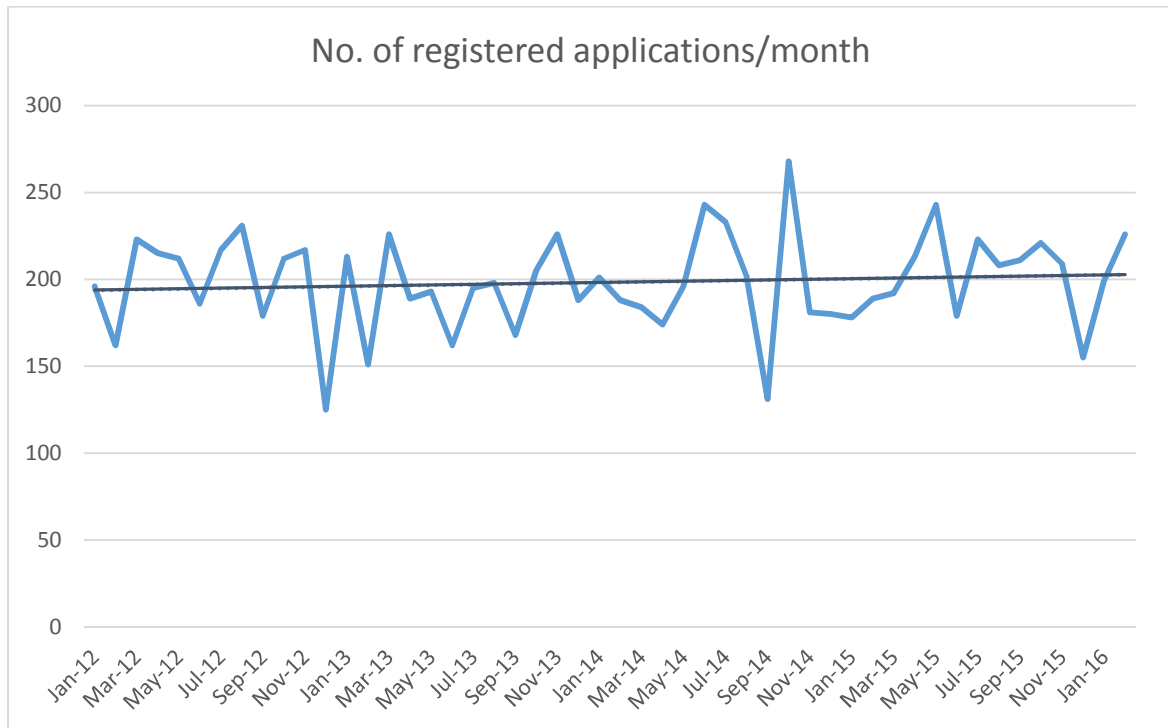


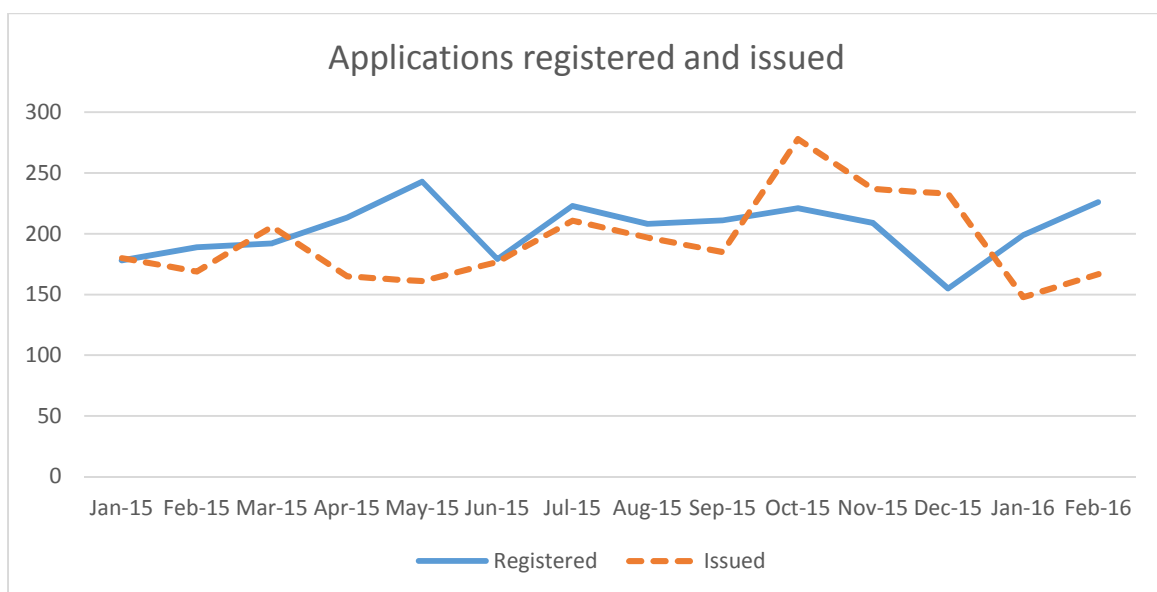
Planning data deep dive

There have been a number of additional reports to Scrutiny on planning recently. The data considered for this deep dive was chosen to show the cumulative effect of backlog.

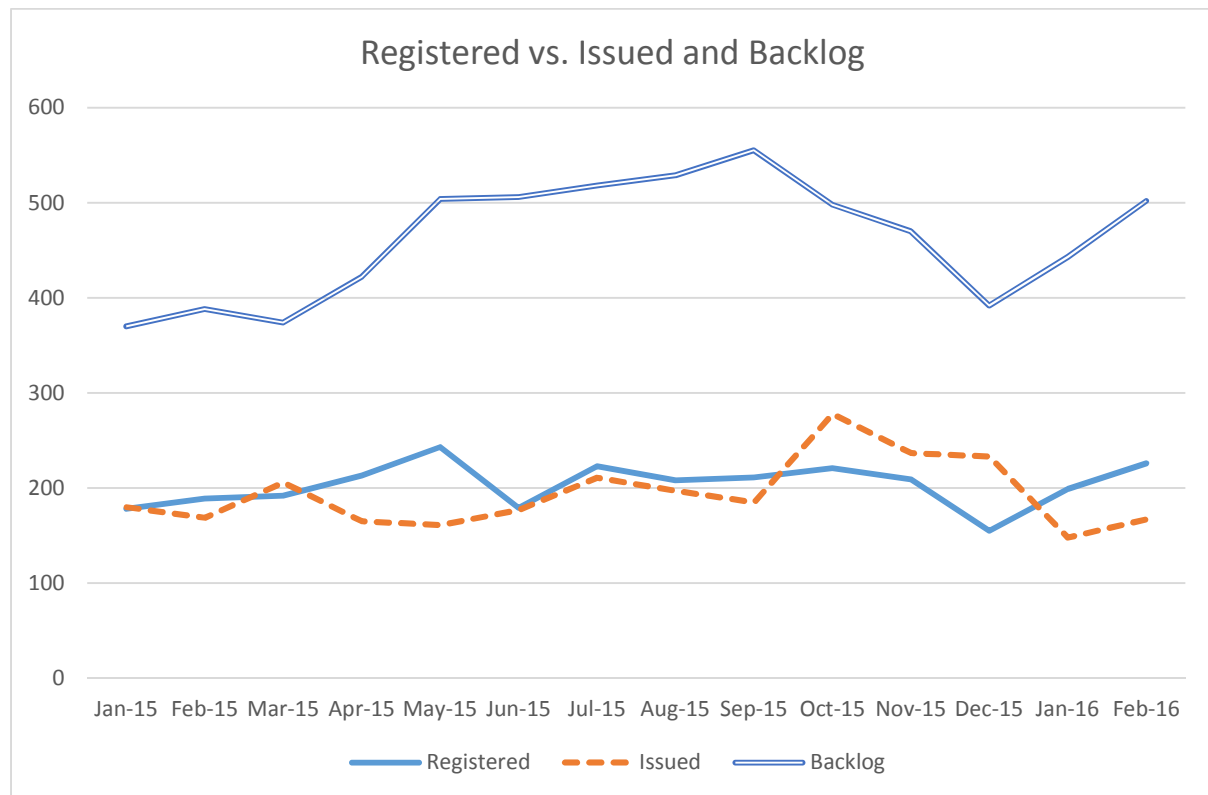


The number of registered applications varies widely from month to month but shows a slow gradual increase over time. The inconsistent nature makes it hard to understand and plan overall workload.

The chart below shows the overall number of applications registered versus the number of applications issued per month since the start of last year



Although the lines seem to be relatively consistent when you add in the cumulative effect of the slightly lower rate of issuing decisions the backlog soon mounts up.



This chart shows the increase in new backlog created over the year despite relatively consistent numbers of applications being received and being dealt with (this chart includes all application types). The backlog can be seen to increase from around 350 to around 550 in September. The long nature of planning applications means that there is a considerable lag between causes and their effects showing in the headline planning data. The Q3 performance doesn't show in our headline measure until January and correspondingly dips in performance can take a similar amount of time to come through.

Conclusion

The effort put in by the planning department can clearly be seen where the orange (dotted) line crosses the blue line in Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) and explains the impressive upturn in performance seen in the planning data at the start of this year.

As the numbers of applications registered have again started to overtake the numbers issued we would expect to see increased pressure on maintaining the current high level of planning performance towards the end of this Quarter and into Quarter 1 2016/17. Agreeing extensions with applicants is useful for both parties but can have the effect of reducing, in the short term, the rate of issuing decisions and contributing to the backlog.

This will require careful management and performance focus to ensure that workload doesn't continue this trajectory and the backlog is maintained at an acceptable level for staff and customers.