

# Building Standards

## Midlothian Cost Index (v13)

Midlothian Council  
Fairfield House  
8 Lothian Road  
Dalkeith EH22 3ZN  
Tel 0131 270 7500  
Fax 0131 271 3537



[www.midlothian.gov.uk/buildingstandards](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/buildingstandards)

## How to estimate the cost of building works (required to work out the fee for a building warrant application)

### INTRODUCTION

This document will help you calculate the cost of building works. Three methods for obtaining costs are described. The most commonly used is the Midlothian Cost Index.

### 1. MIDLOTHIAN COST INDEX

- a) The minimum estimated cost of proposed works can be calculated using the Midlothian Cost Index as follows:

**Estimated cost of works = total floor area x estimated cost per square metre**

The total floor area is calculated from the total inner floor area (enclosed by walls) of the proposed construction or extension. The estimated cost per square metre (£/m<sup>2</sup>) for your type of proposal can be obtained from Table 1 Domestic or Table 2 Non Domestic below.

#### Example calculation:

Construction of a one off, single storey house, with a total floor area of 120 square metres.

Minimum estimated cost (£/m<sup>2</sup>) = **2182** (from Table 1 below)

Estimated cost of works = total floor area x estimated cost per square metre

Estimated cost of works = 120 x 2182 = **£261,840**

The fee for the application for Building Warrant approval should be based on a value of work of £261,840. The Building Warrant fee would be £2426 (see the Building Standards Fee Table, which can be downloaded from the 'Building Standards Fees' link of our website).

- b) When we receive a building warrant application, we check that the estimated costs meet the minimum detailed in the Midlothian Cost Index calculation. If the estimated cost is less than this calculation, you will be requested to provide evidence of the costings used.

## 2. USING PUBLISHED COSTS

It is possible to use figures published by recognised bodies, such as the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), to undertake the process as detailed above.

## 3. FULL BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

Provide a full and accurate breakdown of the estimated cost of the work.

In calculating the value of the works, you must use normal market costs rather than any discounted costs that you might be able to achieve. For example, even if the labour was unpaid because it is a self-build project, the value of the building work should still include a fair assessment of the value of labour had commercial contractors undertaken the work. Material costings must also be at fair market value.

If you require further assistance, please email [buildingstandards@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:buildingstandards@midlothian.gov.uk).

**Table 1. Minimum estimated costs for domestic works (houses and flats)**

		Minimum estimated cost (£/m <sup>2</sup> )
1	Single storey one off housing (up to 3 units)	2182
2	Multi storey one off housing (up to 3 units)	2628
3	Single storey estate housing	1631
4	Two storey estate housing	1382
5	Three storey estate housing	1500
6	Housing conversions involving major internal work (assume structure intact)	1793
7	Single storey extension and conservatories	2182
8	Multi storey extension	2628
9	Garages/outbuildings (generally and un-heated)	465

[Updated 01 Apr 2025]

**Table 2. Minimum estimated costs for non-domestic works (commercial, industrial and agricultural)**

		Minimum estimated cost (£/m <sup>2</sup> )
1	Agricultural buildings (generally)	869
2	Factories (generally)	1166
3	Purpose built factories/offices	1051
4	Warehouses/stores (generally)	1065
5	Offices (generally)	2304
6	Retail warehouses (generally)	1030
7	Supermarkets (generally)	1778
8	Shops (generally)	1721
9	Health centres/clinics (generally)	2814
10	Nursing homes	2097
11	Restaurants	3465
12	General purpose halls	2315
13	Schools (generally)	2610
14	Office conversions involving major work	1351
15	Shop conversions involving major work	1181
16	Warehouse/stores conversions involving major work	792
17	Public houses conversions involving major work	1977

[Updated 01 April 2025]