quick guide to  
Change of use

This quick guide will help you to find out if you need planning permission for a change of use.

Do I need planning permission for a change of use?

When you change the use of a building or piece of land you may require planning permission. Permission is generally required if the change involves moving from one class to another. In some cases you can move between different use classes without the need for permission. If the change of use falls within the same use class then planning permission is not required as there is no development or change.

The matrix in this guide gives details what change of use is permitted and what change requires permission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE</th>
<th>EXISTING USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Class 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shops</td>
<td>Financial, Professional and other services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key

- Planning permission not required for change of use
- Planning permission required for change of use

*up to 235sqm or floor space only
The following uses do not fall within classes and are sui generis:

- as a theatre;
- as an amusement arcade or centre or funfair;
- for the sale of fuel for motor vehicles;
- for the sale or display for sale of motor vehicles;
- for a taxi business or for the hire of motor vehicles;
- as a scrap yard or a yard for the breaking of motor vehicles;
- for the storage or distribution of minerals;
- as a public house;
- for any work registrable under the Alkali etc. Works Regulation Act 1906[1];
- for the sale of hot food for consumption off the premises;
- betting shops;
- pay day loan shops; or
- as a waste disposal installation for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of waste

**How can I confirm that a change of use does not require planning permission?**

To get written confirmation that you do not require planning permission, you can apply for a certificate of lawfulness. You can do this online and you will get a decision from us on whether permission is required.

**How do I apply for permission?**

Planning permission, listed building consent and certificates of lawfulness can be applied for online at: [www.eplanning.scot](http://www.eplanning.scot).

Read our detailed Guidance for Businesses [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planningguidelines](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planningguidelines)