



The Planning Inspectorate

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Mr John Rea Price
1 Old Store Gardens
Leiston
IP16 4SJ

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010012

Date: 16 July 2013

Dear Mr Rea Price

Thank you for your response, I hope I answer your queries below.

The role of the Planning Inspectorate under the Planning Act 2008 is to examine applications for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects. If an application is accepted for examination, a single or panel of Examining Inspectors (known as the Examining Authority) is appointed to carry out this examination, which is somewhat akin to a traditional public inquiry. Your group and anyone else who wishes to participate will be able to register as interested parties and take part in the examination through written representations and hearings. The Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State whether or not to grant consent for the application.

The project is currently in the pre-application stage, with an application expected in 2015. The responsibility for consultation during the pre-application stage lies directly with the developer (with the exception of the Scoping stage where the Planning Inspectorate consults prescribed bodies; please see below). Presently, the developer is undertaking pre-application consultation (see [here](#) for details), and will be required to demonstrate how they have taken into account responses to formal consultation in their application. It is important that your group engages with the developer during this time in order to shape the scheme before it is considered by the Planning Inspectorate.

In answer to your specific questions:

Question 1: The bodies consulted by the Planning Inspectorate on a scoping report are those prescribed in Schedule 1 of [The Infrastructure Planning \(Application Prescribed Forms and Procedure Regulations\) 2009](#).

The Planning Inspectorate [Advice Note Three: EIA consultation and notification](#) sets out our interpretation of who these bodies are, and in what circumstance they should be consulted. Generally, the bodies are authorities, agencies and undertakers whose interests or operations may be affected by the scheme.

Question 2: When consulting on a Scoping Report, the Planning Inspectorate only consults with the prescribed bodies and a small number of non-prescribed consultees that are explained in Advice Note Three. We do not expand upon this list, rather we strongly encourage developers to consult with as wide a range of bodies as they deem appropriate during the pre-application stage.

Question 3: When we receive an application, the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days in which to decide whether or not to accept it to proceed to examination. If an application is accepted for examination, all application documents (including the Environmental Statement (ES)) will be published. During the examination, all representations and hearings will be published on the [project page of our website](#).

We will not consult with interested parties specifically regarding whether an application addresses all of the issues that were identified within the scoping opinion. However, during the examination, interested parties may make representations about the scope and content of an ES. The Examining Authority may ask questions of the developer or the interested party relating to this during the examination.

In summary, at this early stage of the planning process, the most effective way to participate is by engaging directly with the developer and putting your views to them. If the application is accepted and progresses to examination, you will have the opportunity to register as an interested party and make representations to the Examining Authority. For more information about our process and how to get involved, please see the following advice notes:

- [Advice Note 8.1: How the process works](#)
- [Advice Note 8.2: Responding to the developer's pre-application consultation](#)

Further advice can be found [here](#).

I will take on board your comments about how we communicate this process to stakeholders such as yourself. If the application progresses, we are likely to hold outreach events in the local area to inform people about our process and how they can have their say.

Please contact me using the details below if you would like any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Baker

Michael Baker
Case Officer
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Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.