



# The Planning Inspectorate

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Dr Daniel Poulter MP

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010012

Via email:  
[daniel.poulter.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:daniel.poulter.mp@parliament.uk)

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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Dear Dr Poulter MP

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2020 about the application by NNB Nuclear Generation (SZC) Ltd for an order granting development consent for the Sizewell C Project, Suffolk.

The Planning Inspectorate is mindful of the need to ensure both openness and fairness throughout all stages of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process. Prior to the submission of the Development Consent Order application meetings were held with the developer where the issue of local community engagement, and how the developer could help with this, was discussed. Details of these discussions can be found in meeting notes published on the Sizewell C Project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website, the meetings of [17 April 2020](#) and [28 April 2020](#) are particularly relevant.

With regard to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and the arrangements for members of the public to access documents relating to the application, and take part in the Examination if the application is accepted, please note the contents of the Government's [Written Ministerial Statement \(WMS\) of 13 May 2020](#) which provides updated guidelines regarding the use of digital events, such as virtual hearings, and digital documentation.

The WMS explains that online inspection of documents should be the default position and, recognising that there are sections of the community that may have limited or no access to the internet, that developers should take reasonable steps to ensure all members of the public are able to be involved. The Planning Inspectorate's published guidance has been updated and will continue to be updated as the situation develops: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>

The Inspectorate recognises that local authorities are responding to the new measures laid down as a result of the Covid-19 situation and have a vital role in ensuring critical services are maintained. As such we have been in communication with the relevant local authorities and have received correspondence from them confirming that they will be able to provide Adequacy of Consultation representation within the statutory 28 day Acceptance period.

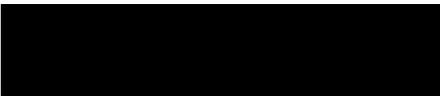
Please note that should the application be accepted for Examination then parties who wish to participate in the Examination would have the opportunity to register as an Interested Party by submitting a Relevant Representation at the appropriate time during the Pre-examination stage of the PA2008 process. Further information about registering as an Interested Party can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination' available here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>.

The Advice Note explains that if the Planning Inspectorate decides to accept an application for Examination, it will then be the Applicant's duty to advertise the Relevant Representation period and provide details about how to register to become an Interested Party. The Applicant has indicated that it will extend this registration period beyond the statutory minimum of thirty days, if the application is accepted, to allow all parties more time to review the application documents and register their interest before the start of the six month Examination stage.

Please note that your letter and this response will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website in accordance with section 51 of the PA2008.

I trust that the above information provides some reassurance for your constituents.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Richards  
Chief Executive

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