From: Brown, Sophie @environment-agency.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 January 2024 10:14

To: Rampion2 < Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk >

Subject: EN010117 - Deadline 4 Extension

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We request that Deadline 4 is extended to 30 April 2024.

This deadline primarily responds to the issue of the Examining Authority's Written Questions (ExQ1) which are issued on 28 March 2024. Answering the first set of written questions could be a resource intensive task for those to whom the questions are directed - typically local authorities, environmental bodies and the applicant.

It is normal practice to allow at least three weeks for these. However, the programme presented at Annex E of the Rule 6 letter does not accommodate for Easter. These two bank holidays, and the accompanying school holidays, mean that many staff will not be available for much of this period. Without proper attention from technical experts, rushed or superficial answers to questions are unlikely to assist the Examining Authority.

Extending Deadline 4 does not appear to affect the subsequent examination programme, as there is currently a 17 day gap between the deadline and the next item. Extending the deadline to 30 April 2024 would still allow two weeks for the material to be considered ahead of the hearings planned from 14 May 2024.

To summarise, extending Deadline 4 mitigates the effects of Easter leave without affecting the subsequent programme.

Kind regards

Sophie

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Please be aware I work Part Time and will be available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, only. If you have any urgent enquiries outside of those hours please email planningSSD@environment-agency.gov.uk