The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure

Planning

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Services:

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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and any Other Person invited to the Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010129

Date: 28 February 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 - Rule 8 and 9 and 16

Application by SSE Slough Multifuel Limited for an Order Granting Development **Consent for the Slough Multifuel Extension Project**

Examination Timetable and procedure

This letter (the Rule 8 letter) provides important information about the Examination of this application. The letter and Annexes include:

- The Examination Timetable
- An invitation to submit Written Representations
- Details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) written questions
- A request for Statements of Common Ground
- A request for Local Impact Reports from Local Authorities
- Procedural Decisions made by the ExA
- Information about Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections
- Information about the availability of Examination Documents
- Guidance on the use of the 'Make a submission' tab on the project webpage

All documentation associated with this Examination, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the recording of that meeting, can be viewed under the Documents Tab on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website (project webpage).

The Examination Timetable

I have made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex A** to this letter.



The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in my Rule 6 letter. In finalising the Examination Timetable, I have sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made orally or in writing to the Preliminary Meeting. The main changes to the draft timetable are that Deadlines 2 and 3 and the publication of the ExA's final itinerary for the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) have been moved back by a couple of days and an invitation to request attendance at the ASI has been added to Deadline 3.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of Deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All Deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the Deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable, I may disregard them.

I request that all Interested Parties make their submissions using the <u>Make a submission</u> tab on the project webpage on or before the applicable Deadline. **Annex E** to this letter provides further information about using the <u>Make a submission tab.</u>

If I consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will be sent to Interested Parties, Statutory Parties invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the <u>project webpage</u>.

Written Representations

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by **Deadline 2** in the Examination Timetable.

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in my <u>Initial Assessment of Principal Issues</u> or to the content of my written questions (see next heading below).

Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations any data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions to avoid delays in the Examination (see paragraph 74 of Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent).

I have requested further types of written submissions at various points in the Examination (see **Annex A**).

Any Written Representations and any further written submissions requested during the Examination, that exceed 1500 words, should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

Representations **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on third party websites. Please see the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice Note 8.4: The Examination</u> for further information about Written Representations.

Examining Authority's Written Questions



I have prepared written questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions are published on the project webpage and can be accessed at the following link:

Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1)

Responses to ExQ1 must be provided by **Deadline 2** in the Examination Timetable.

If you require an editable Microsoft Word version of ExQ1, please <u>contact the Case Team</u> using the contact details at the top of this letter.

Format of Examination Events

The Examination of the application will principally be a written process (see <u>Advice Note 8.4</u>: The <u>Examination</u>), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings (see <u>Advice Note 8.5</u>: <u>Hearings and site inspections</u> and <u>Advice Note 8.6</u>: <u>Virtual Examination events</u>).

It is expected that, generally, both blended (part in-person and part virtual) and fully virtual events will form part of the Planning Inspectorate's future operating model.

I therefore remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings to be held during the Examination Stage when I provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

Nevertheless, in view of the nature and scale of the project being examined in this case, I give formal notification that the Preliminary Meeting will be a virtual event. At this stage I consider it likely that any Issue Specific Hearing or Open Floor Hearing would also be virtual events.

Hearings and Site Inspections

As explained in my <u>Rule 6 letter</u> and at the Preliminary Meeting, the Examination will principally be a written process (see <u>Advice Note 8.4: The Examination</u>), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings (see <u>Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections</u> and <u>Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events</u>).

On this basis the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and I will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That notification will include a Deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to participate at the notified hearing(s).

I will also undertake site inspections. I have already undertaken an Unaccompanied Site Inspection, A note of the Inspection is available from the Examination Library [EV-003]. The Examination Timetable also reserves time for me to undertake an ASI on **20 April 2023.** I will consider each suggested site location, including those provided in the



<u>Applicant's suggested ASI locations</u>, to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis.

Annex C provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings. It also provides important information about the Accompanied Site Inspection and attendance at the inspection.

Managing Examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate but are able to receive communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the <u>project webpage</u>.

A <u>Make a submission tab</u> is available on the website which provides a portal through which parties should make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the 'Make a submission' portal is provided at **Annex E** to this letter.

There is also a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination.

Your status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document What is My Status in the Examination?.

If your reference number begins with '2003', 'SEMP-0', 'SEMP-AFP', 'SDEMP-S57' 'SEMP-APP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'SEMP-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'SEMP-OP' you are in Group C. The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document published at the link above.

If having read this document you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You



should be aware of the relevant costs guidance <u>Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders.</u>

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the <u>project webpage</u>.

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D** to this letter.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u>.

I look forward to working with all parties in the Examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warder

Examining Authority

Annexes

- **A** Examination Timetable
- **B** Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- **C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- **D** Availability of Examination Documents
- E Information about the Make a submission tab

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our Privacy Notice before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.



Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	Preliminary Meeting (PM)	21 February 2023 at 10:00am
2.	Issue by the ExA of:	As soon as
	Examination Timetable	practicable after the PM
	Publication of:	
	The ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1)	
3.	Deadline 1	9 March 2023
	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:	
	Comments on Relevant Representations (RR)	
	Summaries of all RR exceeding 1500 words	
	Applicant's draft itinerary for the Accompanied Site Inspection	
	Requests by Interested Parties to be heard at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH)	
	Notification by Statutory Parties and Local Authorities who wish to be considered as an IP	
	 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (EPR) 	
	Comments on any further information/submissions accepted by the ExA	
4.	Deadline 2	23 March 2023
	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:	
	Written Representations (WR)	
	Summaries of WR exceeding 1500 words	
	Responses to ExQ1	

	Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from local authorities		
	Updated draft section 106 Agreement		
	Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by ExA – see Annex E		
	Comments on the Applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI		
	Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR		
	Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by Deadline 1		
5.	Publication by the ExA of:	27 March 2023	
	ExA's final itinerary for the ASI		
	Hearing notice		
6.	Deadline 3	6 April 2023	
	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:		
	Comments on WRs		
	Responses to comments on RRs		
	Comments on any LIRs		
	Comments on responses to ExQ1		
	Comments on any revised draft DCO from the Applicant, if submitted		
	Progressed SOCG and Statement of Commonality		
	An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) in clean, tracked and word versions		
	Schedule of Changes to the dDCO		
	 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 		
	Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received by Deadline 2		
	Requests by Interested Parties to attend the ASI		
7.	Time reserved for hearings:	19 April 2023	
	Issue Specific Hearing, including the draft DCO		
	Open Floor Hearing (if required)		
8.	Time reserved for ASI	20 April 2023	
9.	Deadline 4	10 May 2023	
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	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:	
	Written summaries of oral contributions at hearings	
	 Post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA 	
	Responses to comments on WRs	
	Responses to comments on LIRs	
	Comments on any revised dDCO	
	 Revised dDCO from the Applicant in clean, tracked and word versions 	
	 An updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO 	
	An updated Guide to the Application	
	 Progressed SOCG and updated Statement of Commonality (if required 	
	 Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 3 	
	 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	
10.	Issue by the ExA of:	19 May 2023
	 ExA's Second Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required) 	
	 ExA's proposed Schedule of Changes to the dDCO (if required) 	
11.	Deadline 5	9 June 2023
	Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:	
	Responses to ExQ2	
	Comments on any revised dDCO	
	Final SOCG and Statement of Commonality of SOCG	
	Final Navigation Document/Guide to the application	
	 Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in clean, tracked, word versions and in the statutory Instrument (SI) template with the SI template validation report 	
	An updated Schedule of Changes to the dDCO	
	Final signed and dated section 106	
	 Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 4 	
	 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of EPR 	

The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination o application by the end of the period of six months	of the 21 August 2023
Please note that the ExA may close the Examination be the end of the six month period if he is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.	

Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the <u>project webpage</u> as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

I have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting:

1. Examination Timetable

The main changes to the draft timetable are that Deadlines 2 and 3 and the publication of the ExA's final itinerary for the Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) have been moved back by a couple of days and an invitation to request attendance at the ASI has been added to Deadline 3.

2. Examining Authority's Written Questions

My first written questions (ExQ1) have been published alongside this Rule 8 letter. While most of my written questions are directed at specific parties, no other party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question I ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

Some of my questions are directed to specific Statutory Parties which have not, at the time of writing, confirmed that they wish to become Interested Parties for the purposes of the Examination of the application.

All relevant Statutory Parties are requested to check my Written Questions carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them.

For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to The Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015. Statutory Parties, including relevant local authorities, that have not already registered to become an Interested Party should consider notifying the ExA of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party, under Section 89(2A)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 as soon as possible.

3. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

The Applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will aid the smooth running of the Examination if all Interested Parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the Applicant in respect of their production. I set out in **Annex E** of my Rule 6 letter the SoCGs I request are submitted during the Examination of this application. Early progress on the SoCG will greatly assist in the smooth running of the Examination. In any event, final signed versions of the SoCGs listed below are requested to be submitted **by the Applicant** to **Deadline 5**:

- 1. SoCG between the Applicant and Slough Borough Council
- 2. SoCG between the Applicant and Environment Agency
- 3. SoCG between the Applicant and Natural England
- 4. SoCG between the Applicant and Royal Mail
- 5. SoCG between the Applicant and **Cadent Gas Limited** (unless prior agreement is reached)
- SoCG between the Applicant and SEGRO PLC

Annex B

Any Interested Party seeking that an Article or Requirement is reworded should provide the form of words which are being sought.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform me about the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination, and to enable me and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

4. Local Impact Reports (LIR)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more information about the importance and content of LIRs see our <u>Advice Note One:</u> <u>Local Impact Reports</u>.

Local Authorities, defined in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008, are invited to submit LIRs by **Deadline 2**.

6. Changes to land interests

When the Applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership, or a new interest, in relevant land the Applicant is requested to make the relevant person aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the PA2008 by completing the <u>form available on the project webpage</u>.

Arrangements for hearings

My Examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions however the Examination Timetable reserves periods of time for hearings to be held (if required).

Requests to participate at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) on or before **9 March 2023** (see **Deadline 1**).

Any request to participate in a hearing **should include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or inperson;
- brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise;
- the <u>Examination Library</u> reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

It is important that notification from Interested Parties to participate in hearings is submitted separately from any other written submission. Please select the appropriate Deadline and Submission Item under the <u>Make a submission tab</u> and ensure the submission is titled appropriately to allow us to quickly identify which event the notification relates to. **Annex E** provides further information about the Make a submission tab. Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support to attend a hearing.

If no written requests to take part in an OFH are received by the above Deadline, I am not required to hold such a hearing, although I may choose to do so nonetheless.

I may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that I think need to be explored orally. The decision to hold an ISH about a particular topic is not connected to how relevant or important I consider an issue or topic to be.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

Hearing agendas

A high-level agenda will published alongside the notification of the hearing on the <u>project webpage</u> to help inform your decision about whether to register to participate.

For Issue Specific Hearings I will publish a detailed draft agenda on the project website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. For Open Floor Hearings an agenda may not be published.

Procedure at hearings

The Examination will principally be a written process (see the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice Note 8.4: The Examination</u>), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. Please refer to the <u>Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections</u> and <u>Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events</u> as these provide important information about hearing procedures.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the <u>project</u> webpage shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the <u>project</u> <u>webpage</u> as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed.

Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) and requests to attend

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI on 20 April 2023.

As requested in **Annex E** of my Rule 6 letter, suggestions, including justification, for locations to be included in the ASI were submitted by Procedural Deadline A and have been published on the project webpage.

I have reviewed the suggested locations, including justification, to be included in the ASI and request that the Applicant prepare a draft itinerary for the ASI that includes the following locations:

- the main construction site;
- Liverpool Road; and
- Edinburgh Avenue.

The draft itinerary should be submitted by **Deadline 1**.

Comments on the Applicant's draft itinerary should be submitted by **Deadline 2**.

I will then review the comments received and the draft itinerary and may make changes to it. My final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the project webpage on or before **27 March 2023**.

Please note that for logistical and safety reasons it may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany me for the whole ASI, however it should be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary.

Requests by Interested Parties to attend the ASI should be provided by **Deadline 3**. The request must be submitted separately from any other written submission. Please select the appropriate Deadline and Submission Item under the <u>Make a submission tab</u>. **Annex E** provides further information about the Make a submission tab.

The Interested Parties attending the ASI will include representatives of the Applicant, Slough Borough Council, together with other Interested Parties (or their representatives). Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it.

Interested Parties should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to me about the Proposed Development. However, I may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available to view on the <u>project webpage</u>.

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the <u>Documents tab</u> of the project webpage.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the <u>Examination Library</u> (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the Documents tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- Each application document;
- each representation and submission made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference number which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. Please quote the unique reference number from the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.

Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification and register as a member in order to use a computer at these locations.

The opening hours and availability of information technology set out in the table below may be subject to changes or limitations. Please check the current circumstances with the relevant locations before you attend.

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing Costs
Slough Borough Council	Cippenham Library Elmshott Lane Cippenham Slough SL1 5RB	Monday: closed Tuesday: 10am - 7pm Wednesday: 10am - 5pm Thursday: 10am - 5pm	30p per A4 page - BW

		Friday: closed Saturday: closed Sunday: closed	
Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing Costs
Slough Borough Council	Britwell Centre Wentworth Avenue Slough SL2 2DS	Monday: 8am - 11pm Tuesday: 8am - 11pm Wednesday: 8am - 11pm Thursday: 8am - 11pm Friday: 8am - 11pm Saturday: 8am - 11pm Sunday: 8am - 11pm	30p per A4 page - BW
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Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing Costs
Local authority Slough Borough Council	Venue/address Langley Library Trelawney Avenue Langley Slough SL3 7UF	-	

Annex D

Slough Borough Council	Library at The Curve William Street Slough	Monday: 9am - 5pm	30p per A4 page - BW
	SL1 1XY	Tuesday: 9am - 7	
		pm	
		Wednesday: 9am	
		- 5pm	
		Thursday: 9am -	
		5pm	
		Friday: 9am - 5pm	
		Saturday: 10am -	
		5pm	
		Sunday: closed	

Annex E

Information about the Make a submission tab

The Make a submission tab is available on the project webpage.

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 2003 or SEMP-AFP, SEMP-0, SEMP-SP, SEMP-S57, SEMP-APP, SEMP-OP. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do have not your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered Interested Party, then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the <u>project webpage</u> as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our <u>Privacy Notice</u>.

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's <u>Advice Note 8.4: The Examination</u> for further information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex A** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the <u>Make a submission tab</u> please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.