

**7000Acres**

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**7000 Acres Response to the Examining Authority's first written questions**

Deadline 3 Submission – 10th December 2024

**Q1. 8.1 Applicant:** *Health and Mental Health Impacts on surrounding communities Numerous representations have been received stating that members of the community local to the proposed development have suffered health effects during the development of this application and will continue to do so, and potentially increase during the construction period and throughout the life of the development. Could the Applicant address this concern and assess the potential for impact; and highlight any measures put in place to reduce and minimise these impacts. An assessment of the associated impact on mental health of communities adjacent to large scale development should be prepared.*

**7000 Acres response:**

There is a genuine risk to people's mental health which needs mitigation. We have documented this within our written representation. We strongly believe that a desk top evaluation does not in any way give a true picture of the health issues connected to this project nor the others. We have requested qualitative data in the form of a questionnaire to be sent out to assess how these projects make those affected feel about them, and whether or not this would affect them both physically and mentally.

We have requested a health impact assessment and a session on health which should entail a deep dive into the data held by both Public Health and the NHS Statutory bodies to ascertain the physical, mental health and social issues faced in our area. This includes an understanding of the health determinants, population health, and a knowledge of current health inequalities and whether or not this scheme will widen this.

We did request an inequality HEAT tool be completed; however, this has been seen as not required by the applicant. We strongly disagree. We feel let down by the recognition that it is satisfactory for a town planner to complete the Health and Wellbeing section when this should have been completed by someone who understands health and its implication. As per the industry guidelines, this should be an environmental health expert.

With each new application granted, the cumulative effect becomes more critical, with the risk of increasing mental health issues in our community, therefore widening this health inequality.