

The Scoping Opinion must be made on the basis of the information available at the time provided within the Scoping Report (as noted in paragraph 1.1.3 of the Scoping Opinion) and the Inspectorate is unable to alter the Scoping Opinion after publication. Therefore the Inspectorate cannot comment on whether specific matters can be scoped out of the EIA at this stage as this will be assessed at the point of acceptance. However, as stated in paragraph 1.1.4 of the Scoping Opinion, the Applicant is not prevented from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects/matters out of the ES. The ES will need to justify the approach taken, applying relevant, most recently available guidance and demonstrating agreement with relevant consultees wherever possible.

In relation to the question as to whether the Applicant can cross-reference from the ES to information on Minerals Safeguarding Areas contained within the Planning Statement, rather than provide it as an ES Appendix (Scoping Opinion 3.7.1) in order to avoid duplication, the Inspectorate is content with this approach. This is provided that the information includes that set out in the Scoping Opinion and is clearly cross-referenced from the ES.

The Inspectorate also encourages the use of a table similar to the one provided within your note to demonstrate how the ES has addressed the comments made within the Scoping Opinion.