

## **Response given on 31 October 2024:**

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the adequacy of the applicant's consultation and its Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document. The Planning Inspectorate has published its feedback on the applicant's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document which you can access here - [PA10 - Pre-application s51 Advice Log template](#). Relevant local authorities can also provide feedback to the applicant on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone before the application is submitted and raise any concerns with the applicant ahead of submission, as part of the early adequacy of consultation milestone.

The Planning Inspectorate will seek the views of the relevant local authorities on the adequacy of the applicant's consultation during the acceptance stage. When an application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, local authorities affected by the proposed NSIP are invited by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 to confirm whether the consultation has been adequate in meeting the expectations set out in the applicant's Statement of Community Consultation. This is explained in the government's guidance here - [National Infrastructure Planning Guidance Portal - GOV.UK](#). Under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008, an "adequacy of consultation representation" by local authorities means a representation about whether the applicant complied, in relation to that proposed application, with the applicant's duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act. As part of the decision on whether to accept the application for examination, we will also check the applicant's Consultation Report. The Planning Inspectorate has published [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report - GOV.UK](#), which explains what the Consultation Report should contain and, amongst other duties, how the applicant has taken account of responses to consultation (section 49).

If you have concerns about the adequacy of the applicant's consultation, you should raise this directly with the applicant and local authorities during the pre-application stage. Local authorities can then reflect any concerns they deem relevant to include in their adequacy of consultation representation.