



# The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

3D  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000  
e-mail: [nienquiries@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nienquiries@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

---

By Email

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020007

Date: 6 February 2017

---

Dear Mr Barron

Thank you for your email, which I will reply to in Mark's absence. I will attempt to address your questions in the order that you put them:

1. Interested parties are welcome to raise any matter that they feel may be relevant and important, including any alternative options.
2. Any examination will be principally conducted in writing. Interested parties may make any reasonable submissions that they wish; so long as they do so within the timetable for the examination set by the Examining Authority. Hearings may be held during the examination, but the topics for discussion will be set by the Examining Authority. There is a form of hearing called an Open Floor Hearing, at which there is no prescribed agenda and interested parties may expand upon their written submissions orally if they wish; though the Examining Authority may need to limit the amount of time available to each party in order that everyone who wishes to speak has an opportunity to do so.

The Examining Authority may also hold Issue Specific Hearings where any interested party can make representations about the issue being considered. For information the link below shows an example of how alternatives were considered by the Examining Authority for the Hinkley Point C Connection project (see page 10 of the Issue Specific Hearing agenda).

[https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-002740-150413\\_HPCC\\_ISHs\\_Agenda\\_21-23\\_April\\_Final.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020001/EN020001-002740-150413_HPCC_ISHs_Agenda_21-23_April_Final.pdf)

3. So long as submissions are made within the timetable set for the examination, you may raise anything that you consider may be relevant and important.
4. National Grid are required to provide enough information about their proposals to allow people to respond to their consultation; however, it is not expected that fully detailed information will be available at this stage. They are required to have regard to responses to consultation, which may include having regard to alternative options

that parties put forward, but they are not required to produce material assessing or describing options that they have decided not to pursue unless they choose to do so to support their position.

I do appreciate that you might look to National Grid to undertake this work in respect of the feasibility of any options that you propose because they are best placed to do it. However, it is ultimately your responsibility to produce any evidence you feel you need to support your position.

You mentioned in your email that you have seen the policy expressed in the National Policy Statements (NPSs) on alternatives, and you will be aware that the Examining Authority cannot substitute an alternative proposal for the application proposal but must consider the application that has been made; the best opportunity to influence the form of the proposal is by engaging with National Grid's pre-application consultation. If, having done so, you feel that the form of the scheme in the eventual application is still unacceptable in planning terms you are able to register as an interested party and make that case to the examination.

With regard to the policy set out in the NPSs, I would draw your attention in particular to NPS EN-1 section 4.4, and NPS EN-5 section 2.8.

I hope this information is of use and it responds to your queries.

Regards

*Chris White*

Chris White  
Infrastructure Planning Lead (Energy)

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the National Infrastructure Planning website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.