



3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: NWWFConnection@pins.gsi.gov.uk



Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020014

Date: 23 April 2015

Dear Mr Jones

Application by SP Manweb for the North Wales Wind Farms Connection

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2015 entitled 'Inaccurate Consultation', which followed our phone conversation of 16 April 2015.

Your email was received one hour after I had informed the applicant, SP Manweb, that the Secretary of State had decided to accept the North Wales Wind Farms Connection application for examination. While your phone call of the previous day had alerted the Planning Inspectorate to your concerns, we did not receive these in writing until the following afternoon. The acceptance decision could not be delayed in anticipation of your email as the 28 day deadline for this is set out in the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).

However, the main theme of complaint of your email, that the consultation and application documents differ, thereby invalidating the process, has been considered by the Secretary of State. The Planning Inspectorate received a similar complaint, which claimed that the submitted application contained poles more closely spaced than consulted upon. The potential for difference between consultation and application schemes is discussed in box 2.16 of the acceptance checklist. This checklist, which sets out the Secretary of State's reasoning for accepting the application for examination, is now published:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020014/2.%20Post-Submission/Procedural%20Decisions/Section%2055%20Checklist.pdf>

I can understand that any differences between plans shown to you by the applicant and those submitted to us as part of the application may be of concern. However, it may be that the project design has evolved over time, or that the applicant is adopting different strategies. You should discuss any specific matters about your land with SP Manweb or their agents and you can also make submissions to the examination shortly.

Your email also raises the detail of tree-planting on highways. This sort of matter can also be discussed during the examination of the scheme.

The applicant should shortly be giving notice under s56 of the PA2008 that their application has been accepted for examination and inviting relevant representations. You will be able to make a representation on behalf of your organisation or on your own behalf to become an interested party to the examination. This will enable you to put your views on the merits of the scheme to the Examining Authority.

The Planning Inspectorate has produced advice notes on the planning process under the PA2008. I have provided links to those advice notes that are relevant to the next steps in the process; I hope you will find these helpful:

Advice note 8.3: How to register and become an interested party in an application
<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Advice-note-8-3v4.pdf>

Advice note 8.4: Influencing how an application will be examined – the Preliminary Meeting
<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8-4v3.pdf>

Advice note 8.5: Participating in the examination
<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8-5v3.pdf>

Please do get in touch by email or phone if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Coombes

Nicholas Coombes
Case Manager

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 Planning Inspectorate 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.