

Meeting Note

Status	Final
Author	Jessica Potter

Meeting with	Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Trinity House
Meeting date	1 March 2012
Attendees (IPC)	Jessica Potter (Principal Case Manager, Offshore Wind)
Attendees (non IPC)	Graeme Proctor (MCA) Paul Townsend (MCA) Nick Dodson (Trinity House)
Location	MCA Offices, Spring Place, Southampton

Meeting purpose	Update meeting with MCA and Trinity House
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>The IPC explained its openness policy and the fact that it cannot discuss the merits of specific cases.</p> <p>The IPC gave a short presentation which explained the consenting process under the Planning Act 2008 and described how statutory consultees such as MCA and Trinity House can engage throughout the process.</p> <p>The IPC explained that as a result of the Localism Act, the IPC will be abolished on 1 April 2012 and its functions will transfer to a new national infrastructure directorate within a restructured Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>MCA and Trinity House explained how they work with developers at the pre-application stage, including commenting on developers' Preliminary Environmental Information and responding to both formal and informal consultation. Both organisations are also members of the Nautical Offshore Renewable Liaison Group which is chaired by the Department for Transport.</p> <p>The IPC provided an overview of the current portfolio of IPC projects in the marine area. This includes 12 proposed offshore wind farm projects/zones, three of which have now been accepted for examination. The IPC agreed to provide the MCA and Trinity House with an organisation chart and details of case officers dealing with each of the projects.</p> <p>All parties acknowledged that the workload in relation to offshore wind farms is likely to continue to increase sharply as some applications enter examination and further projects near</p>
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	<p>submission in the coming months. MCA and Trinity House highlighted the tight timescales for responding to statutory deadlines at both pre-application and post-submission stages. The IPC explained that the short deadlines at examination stage result from the statutory requirement for the IPC's examination to last no longer than 6 months.</p> <p>The IPC explained that at examination, an Examining authority appointed to examine any case may invite the developer to submit Statements of Common Ground (SOCG) with key consultees, and this could in some cases include bodies such as MCA and Trinity House. Responding to questions, the IPC advised that there is no standard template for SOCGs and it is for the developer to submit any SOCG, although the Examining authority may request that certain matters are addressed in the document</p> <p>MCA and Trinity House advised that it would be very helpful for workload planning purposes to understand when they may be invited to engage in the pre-application, pre-examination and examination processes for projects. The IPC advised that developers are under a duty to notify statutory consultees if an application is accepted by the IPC for examination. Following that, the IPC is also required to write to all prescribed consultees in relation to a project to notify them when an Examining authority is appointed, invite them to the Preliminary Meeting and advise them on the timetable and key issues for the examination.</p> <p>The IPC suggested that statutory consultees subscribe to the IPC e-newsletter which is accessible via the IPC website. This is currently a quarterly publication but will be increased to a bi-monthly publication when the IPC's functions are transferred to the Planning Inspectorate. The newsletter includes an update on submission dates for proposed applications. The MCA and Trinity House felt that it would be very helpful if the submission date 'calendar' could be available as a live document on the IPC website. IPC agreed to investigate.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the role of developers and the IPC in consulting with other countries where there may be significant impacts arising from a proposed project. The IPC explained its duty under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations 2009.</p>
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Specific decisions/ follow up required?	MCA, Trinity House and the IPC to schedule a further update meeting, possibly in September. To include a representative from the IPC's EIA team.
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Circulation List	Attendees