

Meeting Note

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| File reference | None |
| Status | FINAL |
| Author | Eleri Davies |

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| Meeting with | IPC Nominated Welsh Commissioners, Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) |
| Meeting date | 8 th February 2011 |
| Attendees (IPC) | Pauleen Lane (PL) (Deputy Chair and Core Commissioner) Glyn Roberts (GR) (Core Commissioner) Emrys Parry (EP) (Core Commissioner) Bill Wadrup (BW) (Registered Commissioner) Bob Macey (BM) (Registered Commissioner) Eira Hughes (EH) (Registered Commissioner) John Lloyd Jones (JLJ) (Registered Commissioner) Richard Davies (RD) (Registered Commissioner) Eleri Davies (ED) (Bilingual Case Officer) |
| Attendees (non IPC) | Rosemary Thomas (RT) (WAG) Rynd Smith (RS) (PINS) |
| Location | WAG Offices, Cathays Park, Cardiff |

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| Meeting purpose | IPC Nominated Welsh Commissioners Group Meeting |
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| Summary of outcomes | <p><u>Introductions:</u></p> <p>a) Terms of Reference: currently in draft form and subject to amendments. The Welsh Commissioners Group will also be reviewed as part of the IPC/PINS integration process. Comments invited.</p> <p>b) The Role of the Welsh Commissioner: Focuses on involvement in decision-making where IPC is the decision-maker, rather than examinations. Not all examinations of Welsh cases will be conducted by Welsh Commissioners. The 2008 Act does not require this and there are insufficient nominees to enable it to happen in any event.. The importance of building the knowledge and capacity of Welsh issues for all IPC Commissioners is therefore recognised. However nominated Welsh Commissioners will provide a core of understanding</p> |
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and expertise regarding the relevant and important features and aspects of Wales. This knowledge and expertise needs to be developed, maintained and refreshed from time to time. A Welsh section of the website to be set up by the Secretariat with policy briefings provided as and when required.

RT (WAG) joined the meeting

WAG Presentation (RT)

- Overview of the strategic and policy framework for Wales (PowerPoint presentation to be forwarded to the IPC - LINK)
- WAG currently reviewing the responses to their consultation on the Natural Environmental Framework which includes views on the potential merger of the Environment Agency Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Forestry Commission Wales.
- Indicated that the WAG is working towards a 'National Infrastructure Plan' although this is at an early stage.
- IPC asked whether Secretariat staff (not Commissioners) would be able to attend WAG training events on new/revised policies in order to be keep up-to-date on the policy framework in Wales. RT noted the request.

RT (WAG) left the meeting

IPC Work Programme in Wales

- ED provided an updated map as Brig y Cwm Energy from Waste has been accepted since the list was circulated

Uniquely Welsh Features and Aspects

- IPC Knowledge and Information team with assistance from members of the IPC Wales Group working on a Welsh area of the intranet to cover policy and language matters. This will be disseminated to IPC Secretariat and all Commissioners when completed.
- Commissioners added 'health' and 'the effects of EU convergence funding on Wales' to the list of specific characteristics of Wales and were encouraged to provide further feedback on the draft suggestions in Annex 4 by email to Glyn Roberts.

Welsh Language Scheme

- IPC Welsh Language Scheme has been adopted and is being implemented across the organisation including bilingual publications and correspondence (where required), the use of translation facilities at events, the recruitment of two bilingual case officers and a Welsh version of the website under development.
- The new statutory process that is to replace the Welsh Language Board may not apply to PINS and the IPC so these organisations may not be bound by the same standards as other public bodies operating in Wales. The IPC would have to review the requirements of these standards and make a decision based on resource implications.
- The Welsh Language Scheme will also be reviewed as part of the IPC/PINS integration process.

RS (PINS) joined the meeting

IPC and PINS Integration (RS)

- Outlined the proposed structural and functional arrangements for the integrated organisation.
- A Major Infrastructure Projects Unit presence in the PINS Wales office is proposed. The degree has not yet been established but is likely to be a hot-desk arrangement.
- It is proposed that Commissioners and Inspectors become a single body of 'Examiners and Inspectors' who will be allocated to cases based on knowledge and expertise.
- RS explained that the PINS Wales office has a relatively senior profile of Inspectors and that there are a number of Senior Inspectors who offer windfarm experience.
- RS invited comments/suggestions regarding the approach to integration in Wales to be submitted within 5 weeks by when proposals will be finalised.
- The integration will require a revised/new Memorandum of Understanding, for example, to cover interactions between WAG (who share an office with PINS Wales) and the new organisation.

Any Other Business

- The date of subsequent meetings to be determined in response to emerging issues and may be part of the Commissioner Away Days.

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| Record of any advice given | None |
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| Specific decisions/follow up required? | None |
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| Circulation List | Attendees |
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