

Meeting Note

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| File reference | Non-casework |
| Status | Final |
| Author | Hannah Pratt |

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| Meeting with | Rijkswaterstaat North Sea (Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment) |
| Meeting date | 15 February 2012 |
| Attendees (IPC) | Sheila Twidle, Jessica Potter, Hannah Pratt |
| Attendees (non IPC) | Titia Kalker |
| Location | IPC Offices Bristol |

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| Meeting purpose | To explain the IPC process to the Rijkswaterstaat North Sea (Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment). |
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| Summary of key points discussed and advice given | <p>The IPC provided an overview of their structure and role, and of the planning regime under the Planning Act 2008. They explained that the IPC will be abolished under the Localism Act on 1 April 2012 and its functions will transfer to a new national infrastructure directorate that has been created within a restructured Planning Inspectorate (PINS). From 1 April 2012, the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) will be the decision maker on all national infrastructure applications for development consent.</p> <p>Rijkswaterstaat North Sea introduced themselves as a department within the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. Rijkswaterstaat North Sea advise on marine planning policy, develop management plans and provide licenses for offshore developments such as wind farms and extraction.</p> <p>Rijkswaterstaat North Sea enquired as to how they could be involved in the planning process for nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs). The IPC explained that the Planning Act 2008 regime is a front loaded process whereby the developer is required to undertake extensive pre-application consultation to inform the design of a project. The IPC also explained that developers consult widely during the pre-application stage and this included other European Economic Area (EEA) States where appropriate. The IPC suggested Rijkswaterstaat North Sea may wish to contact developers directly.</p> <p>The IPC explained that under Regulation 24 of the Infrastructure</p> |
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| | <p>Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009, the IPC has a duty to consult with other EEA States where they are of the view that a project is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another EEA State and the EEA States would be able to comment. In addition, if another EEA State considers that it is likely to be significantly affected by development, the state may request an opportunity to participate.</p> <p>The IPC also explained that Rijkswaterstaat North Sea could register with the IPC as an interested party when a project is accepted for examination in order to comment on an application. The IPC provided copies of Advice Note 8: A step by step guide to the planning process, which contains information on how to register to make representations.</p> <p>The IPC identified to Rijkswaterstaat North Sea the following organisations which have statutory responsibilities in the marine offshore environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime and Coastguard Agency • Joint Nature Conservation Committee • Marine Management Organisation • English Heritage • Crown Estate |
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| Specific decisions/ follow up required? | None |
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| Circulation List | Attendees |
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