



Meeting note

Status	Final
Author	Hannah Pratt
Date	29 October 2015
Meeting with	Environment Agency
Venue	Via teleconference
Attendees	Planning Inspectorate Sheila Twidle (Head of Environmental Services) Frances Russell (EIA Manager) Tom Carpen (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Hannah Pratt (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) Mel Bischer (Consents Service Unit) Environment Agency Sally Holloway Carol Bolt Andrew Mozley
Meeting objectives	Liaison meeting between the Planning Inspectorate and the Environment Agency
Circulation	All attendees

AQTAG21

The EA confirmed they are looking into the most suitable platform for publishing the AQTAG21 guidance for air quality assessments. PINS offered to host the document on its website should a more suitable alternative not be forthcoming.

Responding to technical information

The EA noted that on some NSIPs, they have had limited time to comment on technical documents during both the pre-application and examination phases. In some cases, this has resulted in the EA not being able to provide timely advice to examining authorities and to the EA considering whether an objection may be appropriate. The EA is concerned this could appear that they are blocking projects. PINS acknowledged the difficulties faced in such situations and both parties agreed to engage with developers at early stages and explain the importance of the timely submission of technical information.

EA's guidance on climate change for planners

PINS confirmed they have provided comments on the EA's draft guidance document which would be finalised by the EA.

PINS Advice Note 11 – Annex D

The EA confirmed the advice note has been signed off internally. PINS advised they would publish the advice note shortly.

PINS advice on Water Framework Directive

PINS explained that they are preparing an advice note on the Water Framework Directive. The EA confirmed that they would be happy to provide comments on the document.

DCOs and the Environment Agency land interests

The EA noted that some DCOs have included compulsory purchase rights for plots of land owned by the EA or land the EA has rights to. The EA's land / rights is usually held for flood risk purposes. The EA raised concerns with some of the wording that is now being used in DCOs and the impact this new wording could have on the EA's land / rights. PINS agreed to look into the wording Inspectors are using around the issue.

Consents Service Unit

The CSU confirmed that Mel Bischer's secondment had been extended to the end of December 2015

The CSU is preparing short notes explaining their consents in relation to NSIP projects.

Actions

- EA to send Advice Note 11 Annex D to PINS (completed post meeting).
- PINS to publish Advice Note 11 Annex D.
- EA to provide PINS with relevant contact details for reviewing the Water Framework Directive advice note (completed post meeting).
- PINS to report to EA on approaches to examining compulsory purchase.
- PINS and the EA to agree date for next meeting likely to be early 2016.