



Meeting note

File reference	Heathrow Expansion
Status	Final
Author	Richard Price
Date	21 June 2017
Meeting with	The Home Office
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Home Office Clare Checksfield – Detention and Escorting Services Director Carole Pullan – Director, Cushman and Wakefield Fiona Larkin - Detention and Escorting Services Heather Hosking – MoJ The Planning Inspectorate Mark Southgate – Director of Major Casework Pauleen Lane – Group Manager, National Infrastructure Gareth Leigh - Infrastructure Planning Lead Richard Price - Case Manager, National Infrastructure
Meeting	Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate advised on its openness policy, explaining that any advice given would be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

The Home Office (HO) summarised the purpose of and operations at the Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre (IRC). It consists of two IRCs, Harmondsworth and Colnbrook, separated by an access road but run as one facility. The IRC provides facilities for the accommodation of individuals who are being held for the purpose of removal from the United Kingdom. It is the largest centre in the UK, accommodating about one third of the national capacity.

The HO understands that Heathrow Airport Ltd's (HAL) proposed development would require for the IRC to be acquired, decommissioned, demolished and replaced at a new site. The HO understands that the current site constitutes Crown land and cannot, therefore, be compulsorily acquired. The HO has established a relationship with HAL and will remain closely engaged in HAL's non-statutory and statutory consultation. The HO accepts the national need for the proposed development, but must secure appropriate replacement facilities. Importantly, the HO states that there

should be no gap in provision and any transition will require a minimum of three months overlap in operations at the current IRC and the new centre.

It is the HO's and HAL's strong preference for the new centre to be included in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, and the parties have begun a process of identifying potential sites for it; the criteria for which are being established iteratively (eg site area, proximity to airport). However, at this stage, the option of making an advanced application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 has not been ruled out if this could help to mitigate the transitional requirements described previously.

The Planning Inspectorate provided generic advice about the PA2008 process and the means by which the HO could most effectively engage if the IRCs replacement is included in HAL's DCO application.

The HO queried the means by which sensitive evidence could be examined in the PA2008 process. The Planning Inspectorate explained that there are provisions in the PA2008 which allow for the holding of 'closed hearings'. Such hearings may be held where the appointed Examining Authority is satisfied that the making of oral representations would be likely to result in the disclosure of information as to defence or national security, and the public disclosure of that information would be contrary to the national interest¹.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The Planning Inspectorate and the HO to consider follow-up meeting when site selection exercise narrowed

¹ Section 95A PA2008