

I should emphasise again that any concerns regarding the developer's pre-application consultation should be raised directly with them at this stage of the process so that any concerns can be appropriately considered before the DCO application is submitted.

A DCO application will only be accepted by the Secretary of State when it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate if it is considered that adequate consultation has been carried out in compliance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA2008. If at the Acceptance stage the Secretary of State concludes that the consultation is inadequate, he or she can recommend that the Applicant carries out further consultation activity before the application can be resubmitted and accepted. You will note from paragraph 114 of the (former) [Department for Communities and Local Government's pre-application guidance](#) that regard will be had to any AoC representations received following receipt of the DCO application when forming a view on whether adequate consultation has been carried out.

The Planning Inspectorate has published a series of Advice Notes about the PA2008 process which you may find useful, including [Advice Note Eight: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others](#).