

DCLG CONSULTATION

Nationally significant infrastructure planning: expanding and improving the 'one stop shop' approach for consents

Consultation Response Form:

The closing date for responses is Monday 7 January 2013.

About you

i) Your details:
Name: Shane Gould
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ii) Are the views expressed on this consultation an official response from the organisation you represent or your own personal views?

Organisational response

iii) Please indicate which best describes you or your organisation:

Non-Departmental Public Body

iv) What is your main area of expertise or interest in this work?

Environmental protection

v) Would you be happy for us to contact you again in relation to this questionnaire?

Yes

Consultation Questions

Please refer to the relevant parts of the consultation document for narrative relating to each question.

Question 1: Do you support the proposal to establish new bespoke consent management arrangements within the Planning Inspectorate? Do you have any comments about the structure and governance of the arrangements? Do

you think these arrangements will make the overall consents process more efficient? If not, what further reforms would you suggest, including a greater role for the Planning Inspectorate? [Paras 20-25]

Response: The consent regime relating to the historic environment which includes listed building, scheduled monument and conservation area consent already forms part of the Development Consent Order process. English Heritage has also been working with the Planning Inspectorate on revising the 'Advice Note 11: Working with Public Bodies in the Infrastructure Planning Process' to include a new Annex E on working with English Heritage. We will also be updating our Planning Charter which sets out how the English Heritage local offices deal with all development proposals affecting the historic environment.

The recommendation set out in question 1 for improving the co-ordination of applications for nationally significant infra-structure projects with other consent applications would appear sensible.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal to streamline the list of consents that are administered by consenting bodies outside of the Development Consent Order process (Annex B)? Have we identified the right consents to be removed? [Paras 26-27]

Response: As outlined in our response to question 1 above the consent regime relating to the historic environment has already been integrated within the Development Consent Order process. Are we right in assuming that under paragraphs 26-27 and with respect to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 that existing heritage considerations still apply?

Question 3: Do you consider that the list of prescribed consultees should be reviewed? Do you agree with the suggested amendments as outlined in Annex C? If not, what are your alternative proposals? [Paras 28-30]

Response: We note that the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage) is included on the list of prescribed consultees in Annex C. English Heritage is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, with its funding agreement signed by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Given that we have an interest on all applications that may affect the historic environment on both land and at sea it is important that we remain on this list.

Question 4: Do you agree with the proposition to amend the current definition of the word 'relevant' to exclude the mandatory consultation of bodies that are more distant from the development site? [Paras 31-32]

Response: No comment.

Question 5: We would also welcome views on or practical examples of how the consenting regime is currently working for nationally significant

infrastructure projects and other suggestions on where the regime could be improved. We are also interested to understand more about the costs involved in applying for consents and would welcome responses on this issue.

Response: To provide further clarity for those submitting applications English Heritage has been working with the Planning Inspectorate on amending 'Annex to Advice Note 11: Working with Public Bodies in the Infrastructure Planning Process' which has recently been issued.

We also wish to further improve our engagement with the Planning Inspectorate National Infrastructure Directorate to review feedback on cases that have been through the consent process.

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