

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-984
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/01340/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

23 June 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 17 June regarding Petition P-05-984: 'Stop discriminatory remote consultations for incinerator applications during the Covid-19 Pandemic'.

The minimum requirements for consultation relating to Developments of National Significance ("DNS") applications are set out in the DNS (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016 and the DNS (Procedure) (Wales) Regulations 2016 ("the DNS procedures").

Prior to applying for planning permission for a DNS, the DNS procedures require prospective applicants to consult specific community and specialist consultees, serve written notice on owners or occupiers of land adjoining the site, display site notices in at least one place on or near the site and place a notice in a local newspaper.

Public meetings or drop in events are not prescribed as minimum requirements in the DNS procedures as it is not proportionate for all applications. As a consequence, there are no grounds to prevent an application for planning permission from being validated where a public meeting or drop-in event cannot be held by the applicant.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

While the above is the case in relation to pre-application consultation, guidance was issued to Local Planning Authorities by the Chief Planner on 27 March to address the situation following submission of a DNS planning application. The guidance acknowledges parties may not be able to respond to requests to submit Local Impact Reports or participate in the consideration of DNS applications, generally, in a timely manner. The DNS procedures enable the Welsh Ministers to extend the timescales associated with any consultation or submission requirement, and the Planning Inspectorate shall exercise those powers appropriately upon request. Where such an extension is granted and likely to take the application beyond the 36 week timescale within which the DNS application must be determined, the Welsh Ministers will suspend the 36 week determination period.

Yours sincerely



Julie James AS/MS

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