

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/02034/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of the Senedd
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

17 August 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS,

Thank you for your follow-up letter of 5 August regarding Petition P-05-984: 'Stop discriminatory remote consultations for incinerator applications during the Covid-19 Pandemic', which includes the petitioner's latest submission.

I note the petitioner's request to extend consultation timescales both at the pre-application stage and following the making of a Developments of National Significance ("DNS") planning application.

There are no powers which enable the Welsh Ministers to extend minimum consultation periods at the pre-application stage. The minimum pre-application consultation requirements have been in place since 2016 and have not been amended as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. Should a prospective applicant comply with those requirements, there is no legal reason a DNS planning application can be deemed invalid on this basis.

The situation is different following acceptance of a valid DNS planning application by the Welsh Ministers, should the applicant reach this stage. 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 on the Welsh Ministers' behalf where it considers appropriate. While the power to extend consultation timeframes is exercised unilaterally, there is nothing to prevent an individual, consultee or the applicant making such a request. Such requests may be made in writing, along with appropriate reasoning, to dns.wales@planninginspectorate.gov.uk, following acceptance of a valid DNS planning application.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

Information relating to proposed and accepted DNS planning applications is included at the following website: <https://dns.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/>. If the petitioner is interested in a particular scheme, the website contains instructions which allow individuals to receive email updates about the application, including when an application is submitted, accepted and when consultation commences, to enable participation at the appropriate stage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

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