

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) and NSIP Events – 24 March 2020**

In the light of the most recent [Government Guidance](#) to control the COVID-19 outbreak and instruct non-essential workers to work from home please note the following:

As a consequence, we have closed the offices in Temple Quay House and instructed all staff including Inspectors not to travel for work.

Submissions sent by post will be subject to delay which we cannot currently quantify therefore please use the project specific webpage and email submissions wherever possible. If you have access to email but have not yet arranged to communicate electronically with the Planning Inspectorate, please email the Case Team to provide them with your consent to electronic communication (@ address is on the letter sent to you as an Interested Party or on the project specific webpage).

*All Hearings and Preliminary Meetings are postponed until further notice*

The project specific webpage will continue to be the main point of reference for notifications about the Examination. We will continue to make progress on considering information submitted to Examinations and encourage other parties to continue to have relevant discussions and prepare information and written submissions where it is possible and safe to do so. The Examination process is primarily a written one and so, in most cases, we are expecting to continue to make good progress.

The Examining Authority will work through material and may issue additional written questions or procedural decisions to facilitate progress where it is possible and safe to do so.

Where circumstances make it difficult for written submissions to be made, the Examining Authority may exercise discretion on any existing deadlines and will continue to consider potential changes to timetables in the light of the emerging situation. All changes will be notified via the project specific webpage in the first instance.

The Inspectorate already operates largely online and we will continue to look at ways to engage with people and facilitate progress online. We are always mindful of the need to ensure fairness and open access to all parties.

### *Site Inspections:*

All Site Inspections are postponed due to the Government advice on social distancing and the over-riding need to protect vulnerable people.

The Examining Authority will make use of written submissions on matters which they should view and consider, so please continue to make written submissions which may support the examination of evidence via an Unaccompanied Site Inspection in the future or respond to a request for evidence which may relate to an alternative to an Accompanied Site Visit in future.

### *Overview*

Thank you for your co-operation. We continue to make best use of available time to review relevant evidence and to plan for the future so as to enable progress to be made as the situation allows and in the interest of all parties. **Please review the project specific webpage on a regular basis** for updates.