Coronavirus (COVID-19) and site visits, hearings and inquiries – 25 March 2020

This updated guidance follows on from the Prime Minister’s announcement on 23 March detailing further measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

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

**Until this situation changes, therefore, no site visits, hearings or inquiries will take place.**

**Case officers will be confirming this to individual appellants and to local authorities.**

We will, however, be considering if there is any work that can progress as follows:

**Site visits:**

We will be considering whether there are types of cases that can proceed without undertaking a visit.

**Inquiries and hearings:**

We are considering whether it might be feasible to utilise technological solutions to enable events to proceed whilst ensuring fairness for all parties, especially third parties, given that these are public events. In some cases, the Inspector might invite the parties to consider whether the case can be decided on the basis of written submissions following questions that she or he might raise.

For queries about individual cases please contact the case officer by e-mail but please bear in mind that we are receiving a high volume of requests for information.