



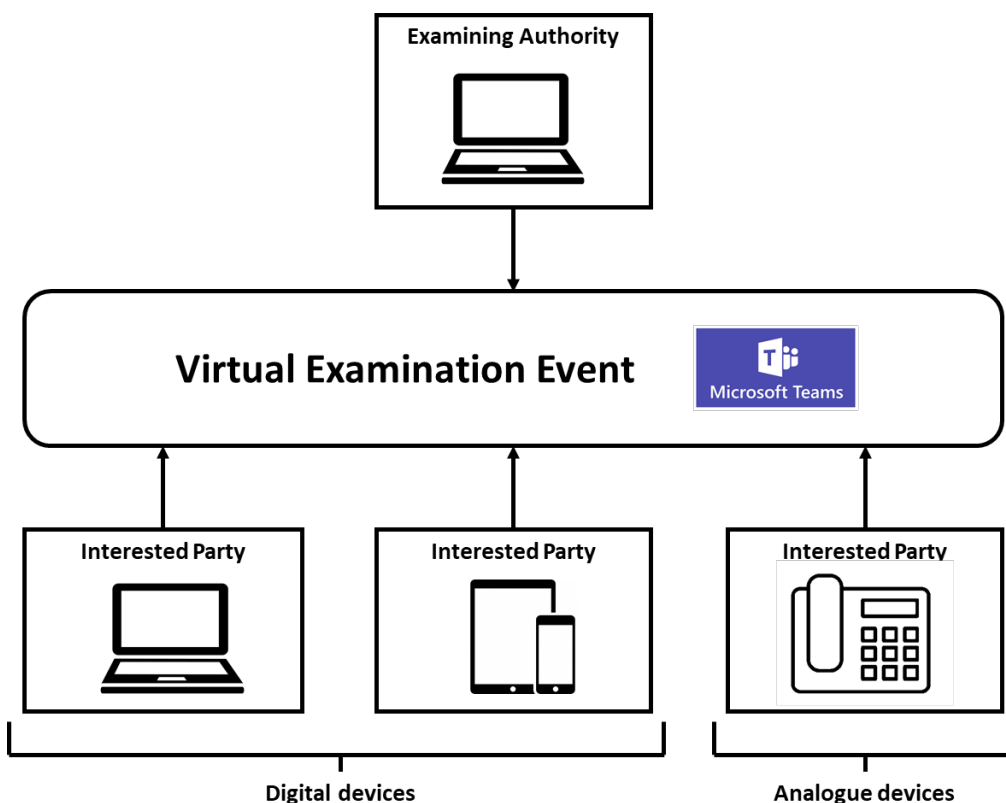
Coronavirus (COVID-19) and NSIP Events - 28 May 2020

We continue to review the latest [Government Guidance](#) to control the COVID-19 outbreak and the guidance around home working and travel.

The office in Temple Quay House remains closed and are not able to receive visitors in person. Telephone calls and emails can still be handled.

Submissions sent by post may be subject to some delay 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).

Examinations are continuing via written/email submissions and the publication of documents online. We are now notifying parties where we are to conduct events via telephone and videoconference.



The project specific webpage will continue to be the main point of reference for notifications about each Examination. We will consider 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 all material received and will 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 notify 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 are always mindful of the need to ensure fairness and open access to all parties. Where examinations are making use of online events we will be publishing additional guidance to parties to facilitate those events. You can see the progress on examinations and for pre-examination updates on the main National Infrastructure projects webpage.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/>

Site Inspections:

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 or respond to a request for evidence which may relate to an alternative to an Accompanied Site Visit in the future. We have now recommenced some Unaccompanied Site Inspections following the changes in Government Guidance.

Where the Examining Authority considers it necessary on a specific project that an Accompanied Site Inspection needs to be held and can be undertaken in line with the Government's advice on social distancing then it will be notified accordingly and published on the project specific webpage.

Thank you for your co-operation with all these arrangements. We continue to make best use of available time to review relevant evidence and to enable progress to be made on all submitted nationally significant infrastructure projects as the situation allows and in the interest of all parties. **Please review the project specific webpage on a regular basis** for updates.

You can find the Government's advice here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>