



Eich cyf : Your ref
Ein cyf : Our ref
Dyddiad : Date 15 June 2009

Dear Colleague

INTRODUCTION OF MINERAL REVIEW FEES

I am seeking your views on the level of fee for mineral review applications to be set when introduced in April 2010.

This matter was first raised as part of the package of proposals for changes to the system of planning fees consulted on in July 2008. The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing agreed in principle in February 2009, among other fee decisions, the introduction of new fees for the review of old mineral permissions from April 2010, subject to further consultation on the level at which the proposed fee should be set.

Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) are responsible for the review of old mineral planning permissions and the regular review of all mineral permissions (every 15 years). The review procedure ensures that all mineral permissions are operated to modern environmental standards.

The majority of respondents (90%) to the first consultation in this matter supported a fee to cover the administrative costs of these reviews. As this will be introducing a new planning fee it is important that careful consideration be given to the level, and this second consultation will provide all interested parties with a further opportunity to make their preferences known.

The preference set out in this consultation is that the new fee be set at the same level as a normal application fee for the winning and working of minerals, as detailed at Annex 3 (extract from draft Regulations laid before the National Assembly for Wales under section 303 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).



The aim of introducing a mineral review fee is to enable MPAs to meet their costs in providing a more timely and efficient planning service. The options presented are part of an ongoing process as part of an overall finance package that seeks to increase the resources available to the planning service whilst improving the quality of service for users of the system.

You can view the further consultation on “Proposals for Introducing Mineral Review Fees” on the Planning section of the Welsh Assembly Government website at: www.wales.gov.uk/planning. If you wish to receive a hard copy, please contact:

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Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
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CF10 3NQ

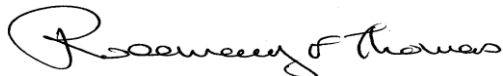
or:

E-mail: planning.division@wales.gsi.gov.uk
FAX: 02920 825622

The consultation paper, because of its specialised and technical nature, is in English only, although this letter is available bi-lingually on the above website.

Details on how you can respond to this consultation are provided on page 2 of the paper and your response, either electronically or by letter, would be welcomed by 11 September 2009.

Yours sincerely



ROSEMARY THOMAS
Head of Planning Division