



To: All Heads of Planning

14 May 2018

Dear Colleague

Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2018. Provision of fixed line broadband apparatus without prior approval on Article 1(5) land.

This letter provides notice of changes being made to Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO), concerning Electronic Communications Code Operators. The change relates to paragraph A.2 (4A) of Part 24, which relaxes the requirement for prior approval in relation to fixed-line broadband apparatus within Article 1(5) land. The change has the effect of extending the date which prior approval is not required from 30 May 2018 to the 30 May 2019. The change will come in to force on 30 May 2018.

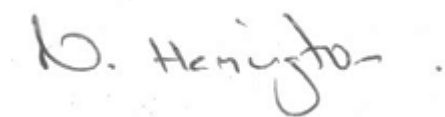
The relaxation of the prior approval process relating to fixed-line broadband apparatus (such as cabinets, telegraph poles and lines) in protected areas was introduced in 2014 to support Superfast Cymru and its objective of providing broadband coverage to all parts of Wales. The provision was time limited, with the effect any development had to be completed on or before the 30 May 2018. Upon the expiry of this clause the prior approval process would once again apply should an electronic communications code operator wish to install apparatus for fixed-line broadband apparatus on article 1(5) land.

Whilst the Superfast Cymru programme is ending, the need to ensure broadband provision is rolled out across Wales, particularly in difficult to reach areas, remains. The Welsh Government is seeking to establish a new initiative to continue the progress already made by Superfast Cymru.

The purpose of this GPDO amendment will be to bridge the gap between the current time limited provisions ending on 30 May and the conclusion of a wider review of the GPDO in early 2019. A consultation will be issued later this month regarding the wider review, which includes Part 24 Development by Electronic Communications Code Operators. This will

include proposals on the medium to long term future of permitted development rights for fixed-line broadband infrastructure in light of the ongoing objective to deliver broadband across Wales. Therefore, for continuity purposes the GPDO will continue to permit fixed line broadband without prior approval for the period prescribed, or until Part 24 has been further amended as a result of a revised Order next year, if this is sooner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Hemington". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Neil Hemington

Prif Gynllunydd | Chief Planner
Cyfarwyddiaeth Cynllunio | Planning Directorate
Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol | Department for
Economy, Skills and Natural Resources