



To: All Heads of Planning

Date: 12 November 2018

Dear Colleague,

RESEARCH INTO THE COST OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN WALES FOR DEVELOPERS, LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Planning Directorate recently contacted you regarding a [consultation](#) which proposed changes to the consenting of infrastructure in Wales. A formal Government response on this consultation is due to be published later this month.

To assist in developing a bespoke infrastructure consenting process in Wales, it is important we understand the current and potential procedural costs to stakeholders for participating in infrastructure consenting processes. This will also aid us in determining an appropriate level of compensation for Local Planning Authorities (“LPAs”) to recover their costs in contributing in any statutory part of a new consenting process.

Arup has been appointed to undertake research on our behalf. This research will consider applications received by consenting authorities and the procedural costs involved with participating in current processes for the consenting of infrastructure.

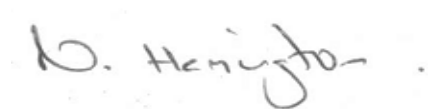
The first task will involve the collation of data on applications received by consenting authorities in Wales and Welsh Waters over the previous five years. This information will be obtained through a desk study of publicly available information and, where further information is required, through data requests to a sample of LPAs.

The second task will involve determining the current and prospective procedural costs to stakeholders in infrastructure consenting processes. To undertake this exercise, we will be requesting a selection of actual and estimated, general procedural costs from a sample of LPAs. An anonymised reporting process will be adopted.

The Welsh Government or Arup may contact you in the near future to request information related to the first and second tasks described above. These requests will focus on information which is not available via published sources, and I would be very grateful if you could participate in this important research project.

If you have any concerns or questions on this research, please contact [Lewis Thomas](#) (03000 25 3201), who is happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Hemington". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Neil Hemington
Chief Planner
Welsh Government