



To: Cost of infrastructure consenting research participants

Date: 21 December 2018

Dear Colleague,

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

In April, Planning Directorate published a [consultation](#) which proposed changes to the consenting of infrastructure in Wales. A formal Government response on this consultation was published in November.

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, determine appropriate fee levels for applicants and to ensure costs are understood from current levels of participating in an infrastructure 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.

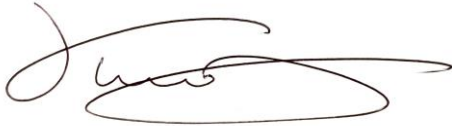
The first task involved the collation of data on applications received by consenting authorities in Wales and Welsh Waters over the previous five years. This information has been obtained through a desk study of publicly available information and, where further information has been required, through 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, other determining authorities and developers. An anonymised reporting process will be adopted.

Attached is an information request from Arup related to the second task described above. This request focusses 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) or [Owain Williams](#) (03000 25 1715), who are happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lewis Thomas', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Lewis Thomas
Head of National Consenting
Planning Directorate