



The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Developments of National Significance

Appendix 1: Role of Public Bodies



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1.1 This appendix explains the involvement of other public bodies in the DNS process, both in relation to roles as consultees on proposed DNS projects and where such bodies have parallel consenting powers.

Which public bodies are involved?

NRW

1.2 NRW has the status of a specialist consultee in the DNS process. This typically involves:

- The provision of (informal) pre-application advice to the applicant
- A substantive response to the (formal) pre-application consultation
- A substantive response to the consultation on the submitted application
- The provision of further written representations or expert evidence during the examination.

1.3 NRW is a consultation body in the EIA process. This involves:

- The provision of advice during the screening process,
- The provision of advice during the scoping process,
- The provision of an opinion on the draft Environmental Statement
- The provision of an opinion on the final Environmental Statement
- The provision of further written representations or expert evidence relating to EIA during the examination.

1.4 NRW is also responsible for granting consents or licenses under a number of Acts. These additional consents/licences do not form part of the DNS application process, but may be required to implement the project. Further information can be found in [NRW's DNS guidance](#).

The Welsh Government

1.5 Different branches of Welsh Government, such as Cadw, may be consulted in respect of specific aspects of the EIA process.

LPAs

1.6 A Local Authority could have a role as a specialist consultee on a DNS application, whilst also providing an important local perspective at the pre-application stage.

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When are public bodies involved in the DNS process?

Pre-application Stage

- 1.7 During the statutory pre-application stage, developers are required to consult specialist consultees or relevant persons. These include organisations with particular expertise in or responsibility for matters relevant to the proposal.
- 1.8 Applicants should identify likely specialist consultees or relevant persons early in the project's development, and seek to engage with these bodies in advance of the formal pre-application consultation.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.9 If the Inspectorate receives notification from an applicant that they intend to provide an Environmental Statement (ES), or if the Inspectorate has issued a positive screening direction, the LPA will be notified of their duty¹ to enter into consultation with the person who intends to submit the ES and provide relevant environmental information.
- 1.10 Where the Inspectorate receives a request for a scoping direction, the relevant LPA and other bodies will be consulted before the issuing of a scoping direction.

Examination Stage

- 1.11 The representation period, lasting for 5 weeks from the date of validation of a DNS application, is an opportunity for relevant public bodies to submit representations regarding the merits of the scheme.

Related consents

- 1.12 Some public bodies may have powers to grant consents, licences or authorisations.
- 1.13 It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they have considered if any other consents may be required in respect of a DNS application. It is also the responsibility of the applicant to contact any relevant public bodies to discuss the timing of relevant consent application processes.

¹ Section 15(5) of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017