

Meeting Note

File reference	EN010001 – Hinkley Point C
Status	FINAL
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Meetings with	Members of the Public, Statutory Consultees, Action Groups, Representative Bodies and others.
Meeting dates and locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 5 December 2011 The Victory Hall, Tower Hill, Stogursey • Thursday 8 December 2011 Cannington Village Hall, 2 Brook Street, Cannington • Friday 9 December 2011 West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton • Monday 12 December 2011 The Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton • Tuesday 13 December 2011 Otterhampton Village Hall, Riverside, Combwich • Wednesday 14 December 2011 Town Hall, High Street, Bridgwater
Attendees (IPC)	<p>Members of the IPC Secretariat, led by;</p> <p>Mark Wilson (Principal Case Manager) 5, 8, 12 and 14 December</p> <p>Susannah Guest (Principal Case Manager) 9 and 13 December</p>

Meeting purpose	To help people with an interest in the Hinkley Point proposal to understand the process, when to register and how to make a representation to the IPC.
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>Members of the IPC Secretariat attended the locations on the dates above, and gave advice to members of the public and others. This advice consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice contained in the IPC's published advice notes, which can be found at: <p>http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/our-guidance-and-advice/</p>
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- And particularly in advice note 8:

[Advice note 8.1: How the process works – opportunities to be involved](#)

[Advice note 8.2: How to have your say on a major infrastructure proposal – the developer’s consultation](#)

[Advice note 8.3: Putting your case to the IPC – how to register and make a relevant representation](#)

[Advice note 8.4: How an application will be examined by the IPC – The Preliminary Meeting](#)

[Advice note 8.5: Putting your case to the IPC – The Examination Process](#)

- And also the following advice:

How was the IPC able to assess the whole application in just 28 days at the acceptance stage?

The decision to accept the application for examination was largely a technical decision. The IPC checked the documentation that was submitted to make sure that all the documents that the examining authority needs to be able to assess the application had been submitted. Over 800 plans were also checked for accuracy. During the acceptance stage the checks focussed on whether the application was complete and capable of proceeding through examination within the statutory timetable. The merits of the application were not considered.

Can the Hinkley Point C project still be turned down on the basis of alleged pre application consultation deficiencies, now that it has been accepted for examination?

The Commissioners appointed to make the acceptance decision looked at the Consultation report, submitted as part of the application, together with the consultation adequacy statements submitted by the relevant local authorities, and also correspondence that was received by the IPC from members of the public and others about EDF’s consultation in coming to a view on the adequacy of the pre application consultation. The Commissioners concluded that EDF had met the minimum standards set down in legislation.

Now that this decision has been made the examining authority will not be revisiting the effectiveness of EDF’s pre application consultation as part of the examination. We advise everyone who wishes to register to take part in the examination to focus on the merits of the application as it has been submitted when writing

their relevant representations and going forward in the process.

Who are the Commissioners and how are they chosen?

There is a list of all the IPC Commissioners on the IPC website, together with a short biography of each of them. They are non-political individuals who were appointed by the Government to examine applications for nationally significant infrastructure projects. They are impartial and have a wide variety of expertise; for example in planning, environmental assessment, engineering and science.

The team of Commissioners (the panel) that will be selected by the Chair of the IPC to examine the Hinkley Point C application will be drawn from this list.

In making the decision to appoint a panel of Commissioners the Chair, Sir Michael Pitt, will check to make sure that each Commissioner is not conflicted in any way.

Do the Commissioners have specialist knowledge about Nuclear / Transport / Health?

The Commissioners are likely to have the necessary expertise to understand the evidence that is put before them. If, during the course of the examination, there is a need to scrutinise a particularly complex piece of evidence, and the panel of Commissioners do not feel they have the requisite knowledge, then they can request that the Chair of the Commission appoint an expert assessor to assist their consideration of such evidence. It is not envisaged at this point that this will be necessary.

What changes can the Examining Authority make to the application during the examination?

The examining authority is able to make changes to the draft development consent order; however, this power is limited to changes that would not result in the application being changed to the extent that it would be a different application. If changes are proposed during the course of the examination, then the Examining Authority would have to decide whether these changes are capable of being examined as part of the application before them. Interested parties would be informed of any change proposed and the examining authority's decision in respect of the change.

Key to the examining authority's consideration of any change proposed would be the principles of natural justice, including the implications for the integrity of the pre application consultation that has been undertaken, and also the integrity of the submitted Environmental Statement.

Who will discharge the requirements attached to any development consent, is there any past experience that can be drawn on in this regard?

The draft development consent order stipulates that the IPC is the authority which is intended to discharge the requirements contained in it. The examining authority will consider who the most appropriate discharging authority is during the course of the examination.

At a recent examination into the Rookery South application, the examining authority took the view in their decision that the local authority should discharge the requirements, with the IPC acting as a “back-stop” discharging authority if agreement was unable to be reached between the developer and the local authority concerned.

Can objections to nuclear power be made?

The examining authority is not expected to have regard to matters that relate to the merits of policy set out in a National Policy Statement (NPS). As such the need for new energy generation and the principle of including nuclear energy in the nation’s future energy mix are not matters that the examining authority is expected to have regard to in making their recommendation to the Secretary of State. This is set down in s87 (3) of the Planning Act 2008.

Where will the preliminary meeting and examination be held?

Arrangements are currently being made. We are looking for a local venue or venues large enough to accommodate the likely level of interest, safely. It is likely that the preliminary meeting and examination will focus on the Bridgwater area. However, the examining authority may consider requests for different venue locations at the preliminary meeting.

For paper representations will you provide pre paid envelopes?

We do not currently pay the postage for the submission of relevant representations but we welcome all suggestions from members of the public on how to improve our service, including this one, and we will consider it.

Why was the timescale to register so tight, given Christmas and committee cycles and the extent of the material submitted?

The period for registration is set by the applicant, subject to a statutory minimum period of 28 days. In this case, the applicant

has provided more than the statutory minimum period and the IPC has no power to extend the deadline that the applicant has set. The large volume of material is a consequence of the scale of the proposal, but the applicant has provided summaries of the longer documents.

Who pays for the IPC outreach events?

The IPC's outreach events are funded by the IPC. The IPC charges the applicant for considering the application according to a schedule of charges set out in regulations.

How do the parallel consenting regimes and the preliminary/ground works fit with the IPC process?

The preliminary works applications were made to the local authority under the Town and Country Planning Act regime, and the IPC had no involvement. Similarly, there are other permissions and operating consents that EDF would need to build and run the proposed nuclear power station that are the responsibility of the Environment Agency, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, the Marine Management Organisation and others. The IPC is not involved in these parallel regimes.

The applicant is not obliged to wait for these permissions and licences before making an application for Development Consent to the IPC. If the applicant is unable to obtain them, they may not be able to proceed with the development even if the Secretary of State decides to grant Development Consent. That is their risk.