

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see email chain below about an MSU we received from Earl Cathcart regarding the Cleve Hill Solar Farm project. I've attached our response above and highlighted in yellow the most relevant lines for you to use about NSIPs.

You may also find the following lines useful in relation to the NPPF / planning system that we used for a different MSU:

The National Planning Policy Framework expects local authorities, whenever relevant, to take account of the benefits of the best and most versatile farmland, to enhance biodiversity, and to recognise the character and beauty of the countryside. The Framework also includes rigorous protection for Green Belt, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other designated rural land. We have also been very clear that a planning application for a renewable energy development should only be approved if the impact is, or can be made, acceptable. Where a proposal involves greenfield land, local authorities are expected to consider whether the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and where high quality agricultural land is involved this would need to be justified by the most compelling evidence. Finally, we have been clear that the need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities and the views of local communities should be listened to.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 May 2019 09:43

To: [REDACTED]; PSLordBourne <PSLord.Bourne@communities.gov.uk>

Cc: Cleve Hill Solar Park <CleveHillSolarPark@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Solar projects - planning enquiry

Hi [REDACTED],

With many thanks to [REDACTED] at BEIS, please find the final response to Earl Cathcart attached. The Cleve Hill Solar Park team at the Planning Inspectorate have asked to be copied into response so that they can contact him directly about the project.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

BREAK

Hi [REDACTED]

Available online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-propriety-issues-guidance>

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
– Planning for the Environment
Planning Policy and Reform

3rd Floor (SE Quarter), Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 August 2019 15:06

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: ACTION: Parliamentary Debate on the proposed Cleve Hill Solar Farm, 9 September 2019

Hi [REDACTED]

In [REDACTED] absence, please could you or a colleague send me the MHCLG ministerial propriety guidance for live planning applications?

Can you send through this week if possible?

Thanks in advance,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Land Use Division | Natural Environment Policy | **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** | Tel: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] | Address: 2nd Floor, Horizon House, 1 Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 August 2019 14:59

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: ACTION: Parliamentary Debate on the proposed Cleve Hill Solar Farm, 9 September 2019

Hi [REDACTED],

Could you or a colleague send me the MHCLG ministerial propriety guidance for live planning applications please?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 August 2019 11:42

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] ; Southgate, Marie <Marie.Southgate@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: ACTION: Parliamentary Debate on the proposed Cleve Hill Solar Farm, 9 September 2019

Hi [REDACTED] and others (not sure who to direct this to as [REDACTED] is on leave)

As the solar farm falls under NSIP regime, BEIS SoS will be making the decision on the application. I've asked other officials here and been given the name [REDACTED] as a possible contact.

Happy to provide general lines on the NPPF / PPG if helpful for your comprehensive briefing!

Regards,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Planning Policy and Reform

MHCLG Mental Health First Aider & Mental Health Ambassador

3rd Floor (SE Quarter), Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 02 August 2019 16:27

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] ; Southgate, Marie <Marie.Southgate@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

Subject: ACTION: Parliamentary Debate on the proposed Cleve Hill Solar Farm, 9 September 2019

Dear all,

Minister Coffey has just confirmed that she will represent the Government at a Parliamentary Debate on the proposed Cleve Hill Solar Farm.

We will be provide briefing to Private Office, plus speaking notes and Q&A by 3 September. We will be in touch next week with specific commissions to your teams/departments on the information we require to compile robust briefing.

In the meantime, **please can you respond by 7 August** with any:

- Engagement your team has had on this proposal to date;

- Relevant documents or previous briefing on this proposal; and
- Additional Defra Group and cross-Whitehall contacts we should engage (e.g. in BEIS, Natural England and the Environment Agency).

Thanks in advance for your support – please contact [REDACTED] (copied) next week with any queries.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]