



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mr T Thickett
Planning Inspectorate
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

9 April 2015

Dear Mr Thickett,

Appeals made under Schedule 14 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

As you are aware we have been undertaking a review of the current procedures followed by the Planning Inspectorate Wales in determining appeals made to the Welsh Ministers under paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 14 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

In light of the review we have concluded that a number of the current procedures should be amended. The enclosed guidance has been approved by the Minister for Natural Resources on behalf of the Welsh Ministers. This letter outlines the changes included in the guidance which we propose the Planning Inspectorate Wales should follow:

- Evidence to be considered by the Inspector should not be limited to that which was previously considered by the local authority in refusing the original application. Evidence not previously considered by the local authority may therefore be submitted with an appeal;
- Any relevant evidence submitted by interested third parties should be considered;
- Any subsequent comments made by either or both the appellant and the local authority, on that third party evidence, should be considered;
- An informal timetable should be established, for appellants and interested third parties to supply evidence to you;
- The majority of appeal cases should be determined by way of written representations without a site visit made by the Inspector. A site visit should only be made on the request of the Inspector; and
- A more formal oral procedure for an appeal should be adopted where it is necessary to ensure procedural fairness, or where the conflict of evidence cannot be fairly resolved on consideration of the written papers alone. In these circumstances the

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Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400

local authority should be asked to provide a suitable venue for the holding of that appeal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

John Watkins
Head of Landscape and Outdoor Recreation
Land Nature and Forestry Division