

Meeting Note

File reference	Non-casework
Status	FINAL
Author	Sheila Twidle/Dave Price

Meeting with	Delegation from Abu Dhabi
Meeting date	17 October 2011
Attendees (IPC)	Dave Price, Simon Butler, Sheila Twidle
Attendees (non IPC)	Eduardo Goncalves (Director, Environmental Awareness Sector) Laila Yousef Al Hassan (Communications Manager) Helena Carless (Awareness Campaigns Manager) Khansa Al Blouki (Awareness Campaigns Assistant Manager) Ebtesam Al Harthi (Communications Senior Coordinator) Abeer Al Suwaidi (Coordinator Communications)
Location	IPC Offices Bristol

Meeting purpose	The Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi was leading a small delegation to the UK in October on a fact-finding mission to learn about best practice by similar agencies.
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi is the lead agency in Abu Dhabi in terms of environmental permitting, inspections and enforcement of regulations. Their work in this area includes environmental impact assessments, which in turn involves effective engagement with stakeholders such as developers and environmental consultants.</p> <p>As a result of a change in policy direction, the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi's role in environmental impact assessments and regulation in general will increasingly become the focus of future work. They were keen to learn about the ways in which the Infrastructure Planning Commission works.</p> <p>The IPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an overview of the regime under the Planning Act 2008 • Explained their Guidance and Advice Notes • Explained the existing regulations under other regimes • Explained the IPC's role in environmental impact assessments <p>The delegation asked questions of the IPC regarding the Planning Act 2008 process. In particular the discussion focussed on transparency, equality and creating a consistent approach to customer service. The IPC explained its approach to empowering</p>
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	<p>consultees to get involved in the Planning Act 2008 process.</p> <p>The delegation asked about the approach taken by IPC in preparing advice notes. The IPC explained to the delegation the process and the considerations/challenges that were encountered.</p> <p>IPC discussed the intention of the Planning Act 2008 with delegation and the importance of the front-loaded process. The also IPC briefly explained the legal basis for the Rochdale Envelope and discussed why it was necessary to produce a specific advice note.</p> <p>The delegation asked about systems developed internally to handle such large applications. In particular there was interest in the development of online applications to support the process.</p> <p>The delegation found the meeting most helpful.</p>
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Specific decisions/ follow up required?	None
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Circulation List	Attendees