

Meeting Note

Status	Draft
Author	Robert Ranger

Meeting with	Robert Wynn and Sons
Meeting date	20 January 2011
Attendees (IPC)	Janet Wilson (Head of Case Management) Craig Shaw (Knowledge and Information Officer) Rob Ranger (Case Officer)
Attendees (non IPC)	Martin Cleary (Robert Wynn and Sons) Tim West (Robert Wynn and Sons)
Location	IPC Offices, Temple Quay House

Meeting purpose	<p>To discuss the role of the Infrastructure Planning Commission and opportunities for engagement with the application process under the 2008 Act, with particular reference to the movement of abnormal loads by water.</p> <p>This meeting was held at the request of Robert Wynn and Sons.</p>
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Summary of outcomes	<p>IPC advised on its openness policy, that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the IPC's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the act) and also to note that any advice given under s.51 does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.</p> <p>RWS Introduced Wynns Group of companies. Wynns is an independent transport consultancy specialising in the movement of abnormal loads. and Robert Wynn & Sons a operator of government sponsored heavy lift barges. Both companies have a broad customer base, but are particularly engaged with the energy industry.</p> <p>RWS Explained that they hoped to present an overview of industrial load issues in a general context, with specific reference to the Department for Transport's "water preferred policy" for the movement of loads by water where possible. Their presentation will not be project specific, but will draw upon the experience they have gained undertaking work for new nuclear projects and wind farms, for example.</p>
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RWS Delivered a presentation, which can be found at

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/110120_RWS-Presentation.pdf

RWS Explained that they had been engaging with applicants and consenting bodies on specific applications to introduce the issue of indivisible loads, but had found examples of poor practice and what they felt to be a lack of joined up thinking. They were looking to the IPC to ensure that decisions are made mindful of policy and introduce the issue as developments came forward.

IPC Advised that the IPC does not create policy, but makes decisions with regard to it. The draft policy framework for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects is set out in the Revised Draft National Policy Statements (NPS) which are produced by government. The energy NPS are being formulated by DECC; representations on how the “water preferred policy” for the movement of abnormal loads is reflected within them should be made to DECC.

The process for the consideration of NSIPs under the 2008 Act is not the same as the process for the consideration of planning applications. The role of the IPC where proposals are being formed is set out in the Act, and is limited to giving advice and guidance on procedure and process; the IPC cannot advise prospective applicants on the merits of proposals.

However, the application process is designed to be frontloaded, and the 2008 Act places obligations on prospective applicants to consult widely at the pre-application stage and to have regard to responses received. The IPC will consider whether or not they have done so when an application is submitted, and applications will not be accepted for examination unless we are satisfied that they have.

To assist stakeholders in engaging with developers at the pre-application stage, the IPC publishes a programme of anticipated and forthcoming projects on our website. It can also be worthwhile to engage with industry bodies or promoters likely to bring forward multiple projects such as statutory undertakers.

RWS Feel that developers are often not considering their approach to the movement of indivisible loads at the pre-application stage, which can cause problems at a later

stage. There is sometimes an attitude that such loads can be moved by road if other methods are unavailable, or they obviate their responsibility by making the arrangements for moving them a matter for sub-contractors during construction.

IPC It is open to anyone to make representations on applications once accepted for examination. However, once an application is submitted, the proposal cannot be materially changed prior to determination. If the proposal is unacceptable in the form in which it is submitted, it will not be granted consent.

The best opportunity to influence the form of a proposal is at the pre-application stage.

RWS Best practice does exist, and RWS has worked with prospective applicants, within the electricity supply and generation sectors, to consider the impacts and management of abnormal loads on proposals at pre-application stage. RWS is keen to encourage the adoption of best practice more widely.

RWS Have compiled a small pack of literature which they would like to make available to the Commission. A copy of that bundle can be found here.

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/100120_RWS-Handout_1.pdf

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/100120_RWS-Handout_2.pdf

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/100120_RWS-Handout_3.pdf

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/100120_RWS-Handout_4.pdf

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/100120_RWS-Handout_5.pdf

IPC A copy of the notes of this meeting, which incorporate a copy of the presentation RWS gave and links to the literature they supplied, will be placed into the IPCs register of advice and will be available to interested organisations and members of the public. Copies of the material will also be placed in the Commission's library and will be available to officers and Commissioners for reference.

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Specific decisions/follow up required?	<p>IPC to place a copy of the notes from this meeting onto the register of advice, and a copy of the literature supplied by RWS into the Commission's library.</p> <p>RWS to pursue their goals by directly engaging with promoters early in the pre-application process, and working to build familiarity with their agenda amongst energy infrastructure providers.</p> <p>RWS to provide further information to IPC Knowledge and Information on the Oxford Brooks Study into the environmentally significant impacts of moving abnormal loads referred to in their presentation.</p>
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Circulation List	Attendees
	Peter Bond