

## Submission of Evidence Form – National Development Framework

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Title of evidence

HSE response – National Development Framework for Wales – Call for evidence

Summary of evidence

It is important that the NDF clearly recognises that major hazard sites, major accident pipelines and licensed explosives facilities are likely to be a constraint on development and that all those involved in the development process take these constraints into consideration to avoid unnecessary barriers to progression of the project. HSE asks that the NDF makes clear HSE's role in the planning process and the importance of early engagement between parties when necessary.

Summary of key issues/conclusions

HSE's experience from providing advice on other national infrastructure frameworks, and specific projects, is that an effective framework adopts the principle of considering, at the earliest possible opportunity, public safety issues that could affect projects. This is particularly important if the proposed project will be located within the consultation zones of a site holding hazardous substances consent or within the safeguarding distance of a licensed explosives facility.

Early engagement with HSE can help to minimise long and frustrating delays for all concerned. This is key for developers, who may have made significant business decisions and financial investment in a development that risks potential setbacks late in the process over questions of public safety.

Why have you submitted this evidence?

HSE believes such an approach will provide opportunities to consider potential issues at the earliest opportunity and suggests adoption of this principle as part of this emerging framework.

We also suggest that the project submission form includes a section asking whether the proposed project site is within the HSE consultation zone of a major hazard site, major accident pipeline or the safeguarding distance of a licensed explosives facility (e.g. could this be added to the section related to any site designations or constraints affecting the site?).

All LPAs have access to HSE's land use planning "Web App" which shows the extent of the consultation zones around sites and pipelines.

How should this evidence inform the development of the NDF?

See above

How does this evidence and any actions it recommends help achieve the 7 well-being goals?

Timely engagement with HSE and consideration, at the earliest possible opportunity, of public safety issues that might affect projects will assist in achievement of the well-being goals.

Why is the evidence of national significance?

HSE is a statutory consultee on all proposed developments within the consultation zone of a major hazard site or major accident pipeline or the safeguarding distance of a licensed explosives site.

Do you agree for your evidence to be made public? (Only evidence that can be made public will inform the development of the NDF)

Yes