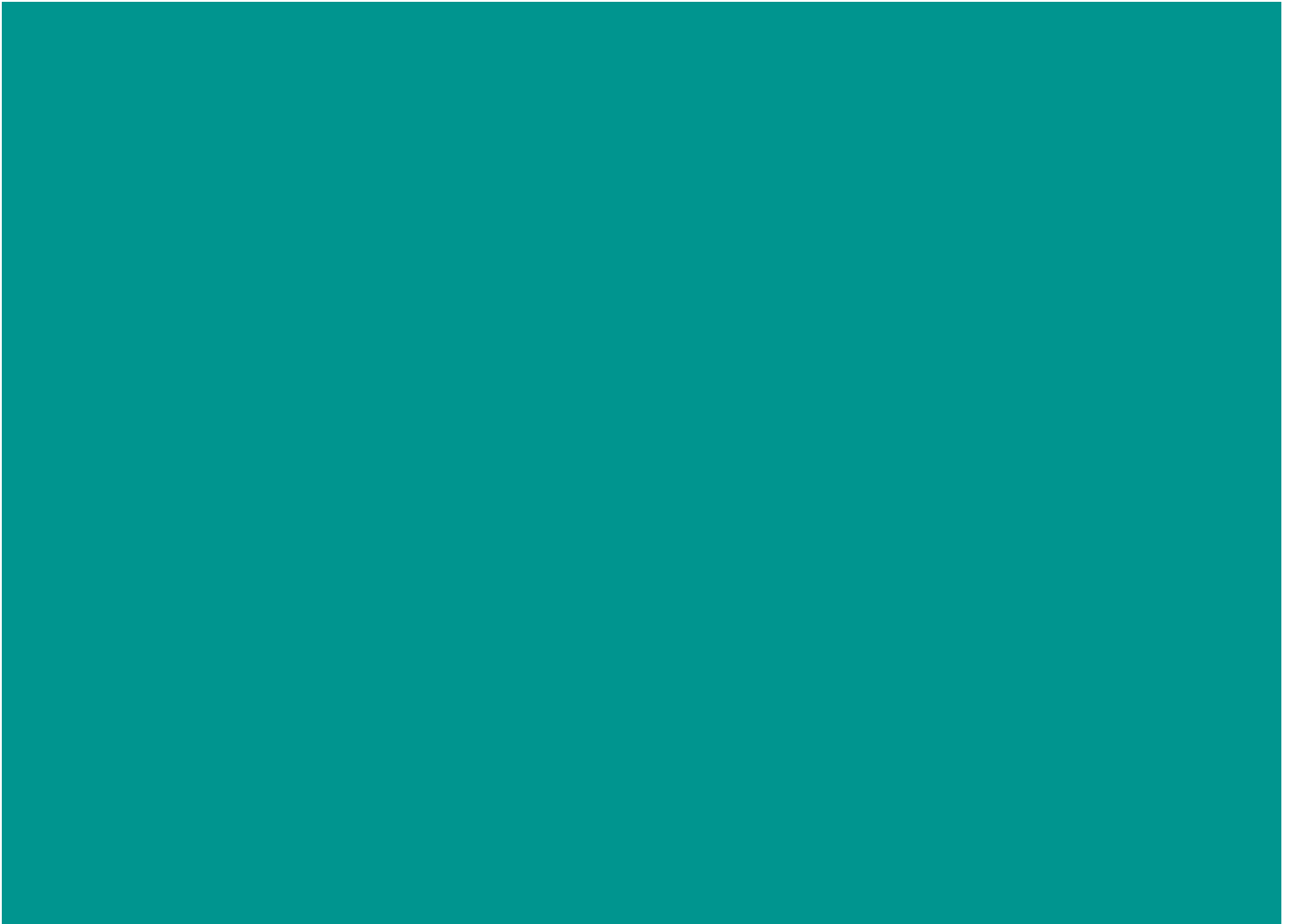




The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Developments of National Significance

Introduction



1. Introduction

Overview of the DNS process

- 1.1. The statutory basis for the Development of National Significance (“DNS”) process is provided by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, which amends the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (“the Act”), and the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended) and subsequent Regulations.
- 1.2. The purpose of the DNS process is to ensure timely decisions are made on those planning applications that are of the greatest significance to Wales, because of their potential benefits and impacts.
- 1.3. Applications are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate Wales (“the Inspectorate”) for consideration by an appointed Inspector. The appointed Inspector will then consider evidence from the applicant, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and other statutory consultees and interested parties.
- 1.4. Following consideration of the evidence, the Inspector will write a report to the Welsh Ministers, setting out their conclusions and making a recommendation as to whether or not the application should be granted planning permission.
- 1.5. The diagram on the following page gives a basic overview of the DNS application process.

Community involvement

- 1.6. We recognise that local people may not have cause to be involved very often with planning applications. For that reason, we have also produced an accessible guide to the DNS process that focusses on how and when people can get involved.

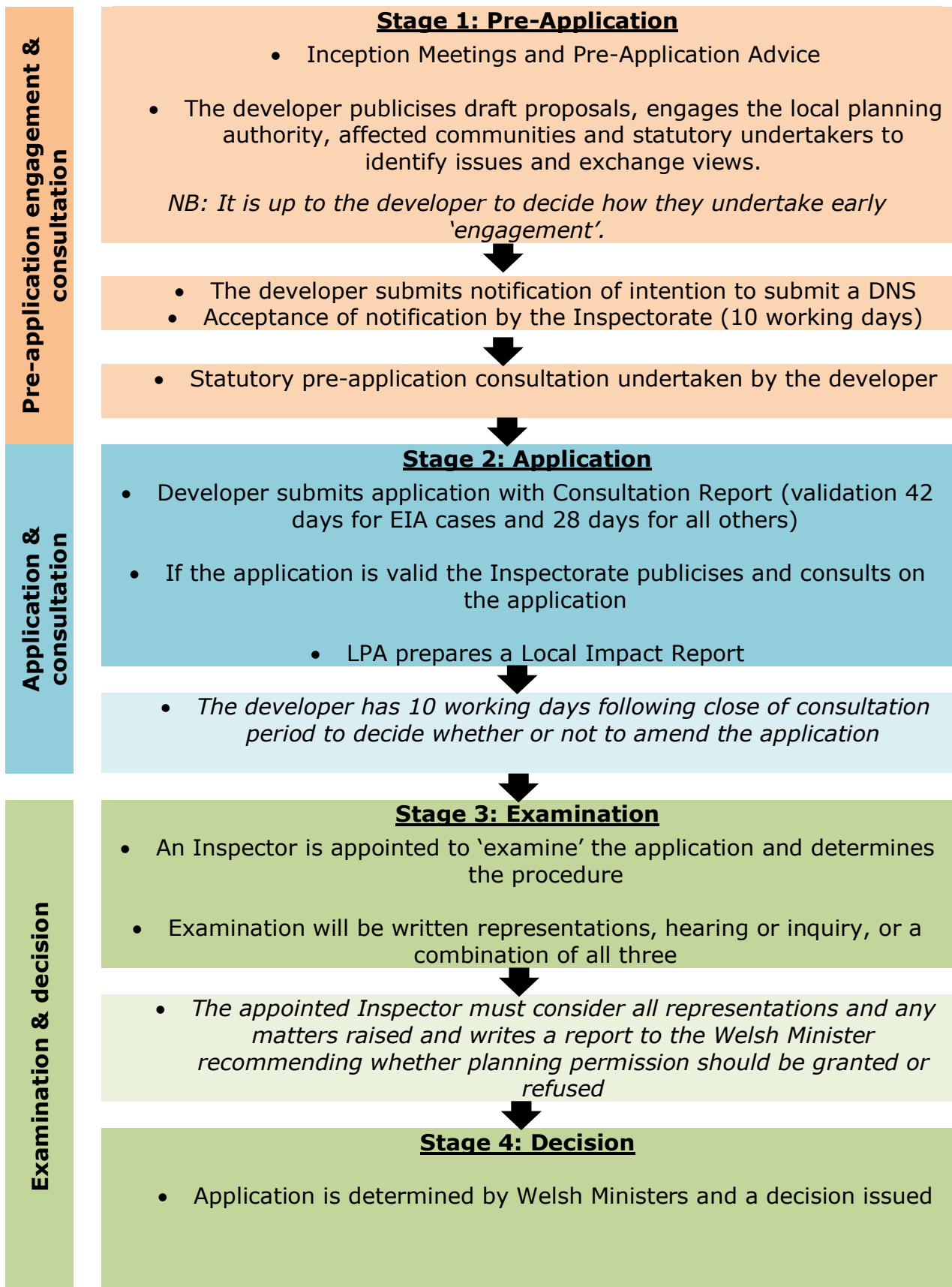
Contacting us

- 1.7. To discuss a particular application or to request information about the DNS process, you can contact us using the details below.

The Planning Inspectorate Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

General Enquiry Line: 0303 444 5940
Email: dns.wales@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Stages of a DNS Application



Developments of National Significance

What constitutes a DNS?

- 1.8 For a project to qualify as a DNS, certain thresholds and criteria apply.
- 1.9 Precise details of the criteria related to various projects can be found in the Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended).
- 1.10 As of 1 April 2019, the DNS thresholds related to generating stations have been extended; as a result, all energy generation projects of between 10MW and 350MW are now captured by the DNS system.
- 1.11 As are overhead electric lines of up to 132kV which are associated with a devolved generation station.
- 1.12 DNS projects that involve more than one specified criteria (for example, a scheme involving a railway and solar panels) can be covered by a single application and associated application fee, provided they form part of the same project. DNS projects that include overhead electric lines are included in this principle.
- 1.13 Energy storage projects are no longer captured by the DNS system. Effectively, all energy storage projects, up to 350MW can now be decided by LPAs. However, this does not include pumped hydroelectric storage schemes of between 10MW and 350MW which are still captured by the DNS system.

Requirements for some DNS projects to be Carbon Capture Ready

- 1.14 Applications for combustion plants with a capacity at or over 300MW must be supported by assessments relating to the capturing, transporting and storage of CO₂. This is in accordance with the EU Directive on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide.
- 1.15 Depending on the outcome of those assessments, it may be a requirement for the project to accommodate carbon capture equipment, making the proposed plant "carbon capture ready" (CCR).
- 1.16 The Carbon Capture Readiness (Electricity Generating Stations) Regulations 2013 (as amended) provide the necessary details. Guidance has been previously produced by the UK Government, which sets out the necessary processes and requirements, and is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/43609/Carbon_capture_readiness_-_guidance.pdf