



Stakeholders

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21 July 2026

Dear Stakeholder

Invitation to Stakeholder Workshop – Independent Inspectors: Hear and Report Procedures and Guidance

As you may be aware, the Department is progressing the Independent Inspectors Project to support the exercise of its powers under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to appoint persons to carry out Hear and Report work, as an additional option alongside the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC).

Following the establishment of a list of Independent Inspectors, the current focus for the project is on preparing procedures and guidance to inform and assist all those involved in Hear and Report work relating to regionally significant and called-in planning applications, and independent examinations of local development plans.

To support this work, the Department is convening a targeted stakeholder workshop as follows:

Date: Monday, 17 August 2026

Time: 10.00 AM – 1.00 PM

Venue: James House, 2-4 Cromac Avenue, Belfast, BT7 2JA

The workshop will focus on a number of draft guidance documents currently being prepared to support the operation of Hear and Report processes. These documents will be shared with attendees in advance of the workshop for consideration.

The Department is keen to seek your feedback on the proposed guidance, including any practical or procedural issues that may arise from a stakeholder perspective. Your input will help the Department improve clarity and ensure the guidance is as useful as possible for those engaging with the process.

E-mail: planning@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Website: www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/planning

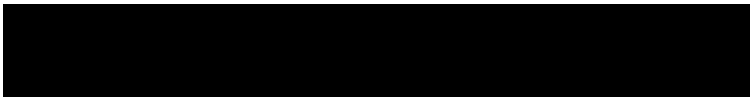
Due to venue capacity, we kindly ask that each organisation nominates a maximum of two representatives to attend. These should be individuals who are best placed to contribute effectively to the discussion. Please note that this allocation may be subject to change, depending on the number of attendees and the capacity of the venue.

Please confirm whether your organisation will be represented and provide the name, role and email address of each nominated representative.

Responses should be provided by 28 July 2026 to the Independent Inspectors Support Team at: iisupport@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk.

We look forward to your continued engagement and would welcome your contribution to this important work.

Yours sincerely

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NOLA JAMIESON
Deputy Director