

## Regional Planning Policy & Casework



Department for

**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

Department for

**Infrastructure**

[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Heads of Planning (Councils)

James House  
2-4 Cromac Avenue  
The Gasworks  
Belfast, BT7 2JA  
Tel: 0300 200 7830

Email: [REDACTED]

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

18 February 2026

Dear Heads of Planning

### **INDEPENDENT INSPECTORS PROJECT – UPDATE AND OFFER OF ENGAGEMENT WITH COUNCILS**

I am writing to advise you of my intention to undertake a programme of engagement with each council on the Independent Inspectors Project. As key stakeholders in the planning system, you will be aware that this project represents an important development in supporting the effective operation of the two-tier planning system and forms part of a wider body of work to identify measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the overall planning process.

With the application process for appointing individuals expected to launch shortly, and with appointments being made in Quarter 1 of 2026/27, it is timely to provide councils with a clear update on project progress, anticipated timelines and what this means for councils in practice.

To support this, I would like to offer individual engagement sessions with each council, beginning from April 2026. These would take the form of a short update on the project, followed by an open Q&A. If this would be of value to your council, I would be very happy to arrange a session at a time that suits your schedules. If you could please confirm your interest in the first instance, I will then follow up with each of you individually to offer potential dates.

E-mail: [planning@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:planning@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Website: [www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/planning](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/planning)

I would be grateful if you could provide your responses by **Friday 27 February 2026**, with a copy sent to William Daly.

Yours sincerely



**NOLA JAMIESON**  
Deputy Director

[REDACTED]

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Our Ref: PL 29/26

Dear Nola,

**Re: Independent Inspectors Project – Update and Offer of Engagement with Councils**

Thank you for your email dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 regarding the above matter.

I confirm Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's interest in engaging with the Department on this matter and look forward to our hearing from you in due course with possible meeting dates.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Ms Sharon Mulhern  
Principal Planning Officer