



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Sent by email

7 January 2016

National Infrastructure Commission: consultation document

I am writing to inform you of the publication of a consultation document on the National Infrastructure Commission. The consultation seeks views on the governance, structure and operation of the Commission. The consultation will run for 10 weeks from 7 January 2016 to 17 March 2016.

The Commission will provide an assessment of the UK's long-term infrastructure needs across all key economic sectors over a 10 to 30 year time horizon. This will help the government to develop a long-term, cross-sector strategy for delivering the infrastructure the UK needs.

The consultation is being run by HM Treasury and your views would be welcome on any of the following areas of the consultation:

- objectives and scope, which states the principal activities of the Commission will be to produce a National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) once each Parliament (covering all key sectors of economic infrastructure) and carry out high-profile priority studies on more specific areas;

- status and governance, which explains that the Commission will operate as a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) separate from the Crown, and outlines its anticipated governance structures;

- outputs, which states that NIAs will be laid before Parliament and sets out the role of HM Treasury in collectively agreeing a government response; a timetable would then be agreed for taking forward any Endorsed Recommendations. Recommendations from specific infrastructure studies will always be published;

- the Commission's remit, which describes how the Chancellor will provide the commission with fiscal and economic guidance to ensure its recommendations are affordable, and provide the Commission with a broad strategic framework;

- how the Commission will operate, which states that the Commission will initially concentrate on areas of UK government competence only, but may also undertake work in areas of devolved competence if asked to do so by the Devolved Administrations. The Commission will have the right to request information and analysis from government departments and other relevant public bodies;

- planning, which outlines how Endorsed Recommendations from NIAs and priority studies could be accommodated by the planning system, including by reviewing or replacing National Policy Statements.

Once the consultation has finished, the government will publish a summary of responses. It will also decide what steps, if any, to take in relation to legislation which it will lay before Parliament.

The new consultation is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-on-national-infrastructure-commission-launched>

Please send your responses by 17 March 2016 either:

by email to -

NICconsultation@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

or

by post to -

National Infrastructure Commission consultation
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London
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