



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND SITE VISITS, HEARINGS AND INQUIRIES

Site Visits

As far as possible the Inspectorate and its Inspectors will seek to keep casework moving. To help us reduce the risks of spreading COVID-19 and to keep all attendees at events safe, please take note of the following:

Before the visit:

- If the visit is accompanied, please cancel the visit if you think you might have COVID-19, if you've been to a country or area with a high risk of COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or if you've been in close contact with someone with COVID-19;
- The purpose of the visit is simply to see the site and representations should not be made. But please follow the general advice when in the presence of the Inspector by using tissues to cover your mouth if coughing and/or sneezing and do not shake hands;
- Please consider whether your presence at the visit is essential in any event or whether you could be represented by a single person. For access required visits there is no need for multiple people to be present – all that is required is for access to be allowed to the property or land;
- If no one is available to give access to the Inspector, then please advise the case officer as soon as possible.
- Should you consider that an unaccompanied visit is feasible then please also advise the case officer.

Hearings and Inquiries

Before the hearing or inquiry:

- Please consider whether your attendance at the event is essential, or whether your contributions would be covered by your previous written submissions.
- Please consider whether you are part of a group that could be represented by one person attending, having particular regard to whether the representative falls within one of the categories of person that Welsh Government has identified as being susceptible to becoming adversely affected by this virus (<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>);

- Please do not attend if you if you think you might have COVID-19, if you've been to a country or area with a high risk of COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or if you've been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 ;
- We will be following the latest official advice so please keep a watch on the [Welsh Government](#) and [Public Health Wales](#) websites.

If you are planning to attend:

- Please refer to the latest [Welsh Government](#) and [Public Health Wales](#) guidance shortly before the event so that you have the most up to date information on the risks and on how to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus; and
- Please check with the local planning authority, order making authority or with the case officer at the Planning Inspectorate that the event is going ahead before travelling to the event;
- Follow the advice below about precautions at the event.

If you cannot attend for the reasons above:

- If those representing the local planning authority, the order making authority or the appellant are unable to attend, then it is possible that the event may have to be postponed. This might apply to events due to take place and those already started. It may be feasible for technological solutions to be devised to enable the event to continue but that will depend on a number of factors including the issues involved, the likely number of participants and whether fairness can be ensured as well as the capability of the venue and/or the parties to accommodate this way of proceeding;
- If you are an interested person and able to rely on your written representations, then you need take no further action.
- If you are an interested person consider whether someone else can make oral representations on your behalf. In most instances there is no right to be heard at either a hearing or inquiry although these are public events. Whether to proceed will be at the discretion of the Inspector but it is unlikely that an event will be curtailed because one person is unable to be present. In that event it may be possible to submit further written representations but that would be for the appointed Inspector to decide.

At the event:

- Use the hand sanitiser regularly, where provided, and when washing hands ensure the hand soap is used, using the advised method (i.e. washing your hands for at least 20 seconds);

- Use tissues to cover your mouth if coughing and/or sneezing and dispose of them in a rubbish bin;
- Do not shake hands; and
- Keep your distance from other individuals, where possible.

Thank you for your co-operation.