

Reform Projects Team
Landscape & Outdoor Recreation
Zone 1/09, Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol, BS1 6EB



Email: RightsofwayReforms@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: 0117 372 3552
Website: www.defra.gov.uk

14 May 2012

Dear Consultee

Consultation on improvements to the policy and legal framework for public rights of way

1. I write to invite your views on the Government's proposals to make changes to the policy and legal framework governing public rights of way.
2. The following documents may be found on Defra's website:
www.defra.gov.uk/consult/open/
 - Improvements to the policy and legal framework for public rights of way – public consultation document.
 - A consultation stage impact assessment on simplifying and streamlining rights of way procedures.
 - A consultation stage impact assessment on implementing an alternative approach to the 'Right to Apply' for extinguishments and diversions of rights of way.
 - A consultation stage impact assessment on reforms to public rights of way in response to the Penfold Review¹.
 - A list of key consultees.
 - A pro-forma for responses.
3. We welcome your views and comments on our proposals. If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation, please contact the Reforms Project Team at the above address or alternatively telephone Andrew Crawford on 0117 372 3552.

Responses

4. Please send responses to either:

PTO

¹ In December 2009, the Government invited Adrian Penfold, Head of Planning and Environment at British Land, to review the regimes for obtaining non-planning consents for property development projects with a view to establishing whether these processes delay or discourage investment. His final report was published in July 2010 - <http://www.bis.gov.uk/penfold>

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Reform Projects Team
Landscape and Outdoor Recreation
Zone 1/09, Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EB

Or by email to: RightsofwayReforms@defra.gsi.gov.uk

5. Responses should be received by 6 August 2012.

Consultation Criteria

6. This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance.

Criterion one - When to consult

- Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome.

Criterion two - Duration of consultation exercises

- Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration being given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible.

Criterion three - Clarity of scope and impact

- Consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals.

Criterion four - Accessibility of consultation exercises

- Consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach.

Criterion five - The burden of consultation

- Keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees' buy-in to the process is to be obtained.

Criterion six - Responsiveness of consultation exercises

- Consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation.

7. When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in Defra's library at Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

8. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be made publicly available, please clearly say so in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your

computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request.

9. Please explain why you need to keep your details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation, but because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

10. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at www.defra.gov.uk/consult/closed/. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

11. To see consultation responses and our summary, please contact the Defra library at:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Information Resource Centre
Lower Ground Floor
Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020 7238 6575

Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk

12. Please give the library 24 hours' notice. Please note, there is a charge for photocopying and postage.

13. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 2D Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

14. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully



Dave Waterman

Reform Projects Manager
Landscape and Outdoor Recreation
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs