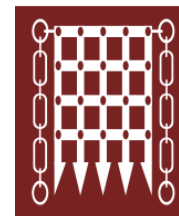


**Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum and Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar:
Next steps for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project reform in England and Wales**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 31st March 2025

Taking place online



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Banner KC, Author, Independent review into legal challenges against Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
- 9.05 **Next steps for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) reform**
Robbie Owen, Partner and Head, Infrastructure Planning and Government Affairs, Pinsent Masons
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Priorities for developing the consent process for NSIPs**
Dr Pauleen Lane, Professional Lead, Infrastructure, Planning Inspectorate
- 9.35 **The need for NSIP reform and implementing government's 10-year infrastructure strategy**
Julia Prescott, Deputy Chair, National Infrastructure Commission
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **Implementation of operational reforms to the NSIP regime**
assessing practicalities | amendments to National Policy Statements | simplifying the DCO process | examining pre-application services and fast-track approvals | adjusting the threshold for solar and wind | expanding the range of eligible developments | mitigating costs and delays | improving delivery efficiency | process of cost recovery for the Planning Inspectorate | updated planning guidance
Stewart Patience, DCO Programme Manager, National Highways
Catherine Howard, Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills
Mark Woodger, Technical and Operational Lead, National Strategic Infrastructure Projects, Planning and Sustainable Development, Essex County Council
Paul Hickey, Senior Director, RAPID and Environmental Planning, Ofwat
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Independent review into legal challenges against NSIPs - key findings**
Lord Banner KC, Author, Independent review into legal challenges against Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
Nick Grant, Barrister, Landmark Chambers
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Banner KC, Author, Independent review into legal challenges against Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
- 11.20 Break
- 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Sarah Lewis, Senior Researcher, Planning, Building Control and Fire Safety, House of Commons Library
- 11.35 **Effective project design, the shift to spatial planning and speeding up the NSIP consenting process**
Charlotte Mitchell, Chief Planning Officer, National Grid
Alister Kratt, Director, LDA Design
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 **NSIPs and biodiversity net gain**
Mike Burke, Programme Director, Sustainable Development, Natural England
- 12.15 **Key issues for delivery, community engagement, and environmental impact**
strategies for meaningful local engagement | achieving community benefit | addressing local concerns and disputes | integrating net zero targets | implementing effective environmental safeguards | strengthening strategic infrastructure planning and oversight | priorities for NISTA's new role | alignment with UK government's infrastructure commitments | modernisation and efficiency in construction methods | increasing certainty for developers and investors
Stephen Tarr, CEO, Major Projects Transport, Energy and Power, Balfour Beatty
Emma Clarke, Policy and Advocacy Lead, Wildlife and Countryside Link
Jo Wall, Senior Strategy Director, Climate, Local Partnerships
Dan Durrant, Lecturer, Infrastructure Planning, The Bartlett School of Planning, University College London
Andrew Wilson, Partner, Infrastructure, Curzon Consultancy
- 12.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.00 **NSIP reform - key priorities for policy**
Alicia Ford, Deputy Director, National Infrastructure Planning, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.25 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**
Sarah Lewis, Senior Researcher, Planning, Building Control and Fire Safety, House of Commons Library
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Forum Projects

This conference is supported by LDA Design

L D A DESIGN