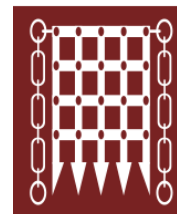


## Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum and Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar:

### Next steps for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project reform in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 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 **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*  
**Paul Hickey**, Senior Director, RAPID and Environmental Planning, Ofwat  
**Stewart Patience**, DCO Programme Manager, National Highways  
**Catherine Howard**, Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, investment
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **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
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Effective project design, the shift to spatial planning and speeding up the NSIP consenting process**  
**Charlotte Mitchell**, Chief Planning Officer, National Grid  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 **NSIPs and biodiversity net gain**  
**Mike Burke**, Programme Director, Sustainable Development, Natural England
- 11.45 **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*  
**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  
**Stephen Tarr**, CEO, Major Projects Transport, Energy and Power, Balfour Beatty  
Senior representative, consultancy
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **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
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Forum Projects