

Response to the applicant, regarding the length of Statements of Case (12/7/2012)

As you know, the closing date for initial representations is 20 July. The upper limit is 1500 words as specified in Art 7 of the 2008 Order. The Inspector will then issue a full guidance note regarding the ongoing process and timetable to all eligible persons. His aim is to do this no later than 27th July. It will include full details of word limits, dates for submissions etc. There will be a short opportunity for you and other potential participants to comment on the note prior to a final version (or confirmation of the initial note) which will be issued no later than 6 August.

In the interest of fairness and to avoid potential confusion the Inspector does not wish to issue directions in bits and pieces outside the formal open procedures that will be available to everyone. What he can confirm now is that he intends to run the inquiry on a plenary (not thematic) basis, and (other than) a probable 'without prejudice' session at the end on suggested planning conditions. This means that individual witnesses/participants will be called in turn to present their points with the opportunity for cross examination between the main parties. He is likely to impose a limit of 1500 words on statements of case under Art 13 submitted by persons who do not intend to appear and be heard (ie written submissions). At present he does not expect to impose a word limit on statements (proofs of evidence) by persons who are to appear and be heard, but will require a summary of not more than 1500 words for any statement longer than 1500 words. In all cases, documents must be no longer than necessary to cover its points.