Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 293D Applications)

The Town and Country Planning (Crown Development Applications) (Hearings and Inquiries) Rules 2025

Buildings, Goods Vehicle parking spaces, entry lanes, refrigerated semi-trailers, staff car parking spaces, access, site infrastructure, utilities, hardstanding, landscaping and ancillary facilities and associated works; and ongoing use of the site for an Inland Border Facility and Border Control Post, operating 24 hours per day, seven days per week

at

Sevington Inland Border Facility, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6GE.

The consultation period for this Crown Development application has now ended. Consultation responses and third-party comments have been published on https://find-crown-development.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/applications/885d6bd3-c6b3-495f-a820-d4633a1d00a9/application-information
The application will follow the inquiry procedure for the following reason(s):

In this case, on the basis of the information submitted at this stage, there is a clearly explained need for the evidence to be tested through formal questioning by an advocate; that the issues are complex (given the planning history of the site); and the application has generated substantial local interest to warrant an inquiry.

There are two ways in which you can participate at the Inquiry, at the Inspector's discretion:

1. To participate as a general interested party / person, where for example you wish to give a short statement, and following this, answer a few questions from the Inspector, then please indicate this in your registration email below. This will typically be local residents and Parish Councils for example, where you wish to reiterate your observations, concerns, and/or support of the proposal, but for these not to be tested by cross-examination by an advocate. For most people, this is the most appropriate and cost-effective way to actively participate in an Inquiry,

and your oral evidence will be taken into account by the appointed person before any decision is made.

2. If you would like to participate at the Inquiry in a formal capacity as a ‘main’ party – known as a Rule 13 Party (or Rule 6 under s78 Inquiry TCPA), then you will need to formally write to ask for this status from the us. This request should be submitted no later than Monday 27 October 2025, in order to keep to the timetable. This request should include a short statement as to your interest in the case, who you represent, and a few bullet points of the issues you would seek to submit written evidence on.

If and once your request is granted, you will need to provide a Statement of Case within four weeks indicating the full skeleton case you wish to present to the appointed person, and also if you intend to call any witnesses to the Inquiry; these people will need to provide Proofs of Evidence, and they should be prepared to have these tested under cross-examination by an advocate. If you are considering to seek Rule 13 status, it may be helpful to seek assistance from an advocate (a barrister, solicitor, or planning agent) who would be able to assist you as we cannot provide advice in this respect. Generally, Rule 13 ‘status’ would be sought by statutory consultees, local campaign groups and/or Parish Councils, who may wish to call evidence of a technical or complex nature which requires cross-examination.

You should also be aware that on 7 October 2025, the Applicants submitted a unilateral undertaking under s106 TCPA, which seeks to secure monies and other local infrastructure, in relation to this application. This is available on the Crown web page as provided in previous correspondence.

This will also be the place where a Statement of Matters will be published, which sets out the appointed persons main issues and specific questions that they have at this stage, and to which the Applicants and/or other parties may seek to submit further evidence in order to address these.

If you wish to participate in the inquiry, please submit your request in writing to crownapplications@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. When submitting your request, please include the application reference number.

The date, time and venue fixed for the holding of the inquiry will be published on the application website in due course.

Crown Development Case Team
Planning & Environmental Applications Service