

Dear Mr Watson,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 March.

I have spoken to Mr Rivett regarding your concerns and would comment as follows.

I have attached Mr Rivett's Guidance Note (see para 13 – **my highlighting**) which clearly confirms his previous employment history. He also makes it clear that he had no involvement in any work relating to the IAMP plan area and that his previous employment with the Councils will have no bearing on his consideration of the plan.

Furthermore in his 11 years as an Inspector he has determined numerous planning appeal cases in both South Tyneside and Sunderland without any challenge around fairness and impartiality.

Finally, it is not uncommon for Examination Programme Officers to be employees of the relevant Council. However for this Examination Ms Stule will work under Mr Rivett's direction and her involvement is restricted to administrative arrangements.

I hope this provides the necessary clarification and assurance.

Kind regards,

Sean Canavan  
Head of Service: Plans and S62 Casework  
The Planning Inspectorate  
3G, Temple Quay House  
2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

[EmailSean.Canavan@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EmailSean.Canavan@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0303 444 5251