

Date: 21st December 2012  
Your Ref: NI1278  
Our Ref: Z/2012/1359/F  
(Please quote at all times)



Department of  
the Environment  
www.doeni.gov.uk

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Belfast City Council Chief Executive  
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BT1 5GS

Chief Executive's Office		
Date 9/1/13		
Seen by CX		
Referred to		
ACX	Corp Comms	Dem Serv
GR	SPP	Bus Supp.
Dev	F&R	H&ES
P&L	P&P	Other
Ref MCN 9/1		

Please contact: Philip Stinson  
Direct Line:  
028 9041 6913

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Major Planning Application under Article 31 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991**

**Location:** Windsor Park, Donegall Avenue, Belfast, BT12 6LW

**Proposal:** Re-development of Windsor Park to provide an 18,000 seated capacity National Football Stadium, comprising: demolition of the south and east stands and erection of replacement south and east stands; refurbishment and extension of north and west stands; replacement flood lighting; coach and car parking; player accommodation and welfare facilities; ground support facilities including electronic display installations; hard and soft landscaping and storage facilities associated with ground maintenance; development of ancillary office accommodation, conference, training and community facilities; temporary construction access; upgrade of pedestrian access points and boundary fencing

The Department has applied Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 to the above-mentioned planning application, designating it as one of major importance as it considers the development would, if permitted:

- (i) be of significance to the whole or a substantial part of Northern Ireland,
- (ii) affect the whole of a neighbourhood and

Before the application is determined the Department will either cause a public local inquiry to be held before the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) or issue to the applicant a Notice of Opinion indicating how it considers the application should be decided. If a Notice of Opinion issues the applicant can seek an opportunity to appear before the PAC for the purpose of making representation on the opinion expressed by the Department.

In the event of the PAC becoming involved, the Commission will report to the Department on the Inquiry or the Hearing prior to a final decision being taken.

The Department is not yet in a position to indicate whether or not a public local inquiry will be held. You will be notified as soon as a decision is reached on this point. If your Council has not yet formally commented on this application I should be glad if you would let me have the Council's views at your earliest opportunity.

You may wish to consider placing this application on the agenda of planning cases, under any other business to be discussed at the Planning Committee's next meeting with Department Planning Officials.

This application and associated site plans, maps and drawings are available for viewing via the Planning NI Web Portal, [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk) .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. S. G.', written over a circular scribble.

for Strategic Planning Division