

Good afternoon,

I refer to your recent email below requesting comments on the Position Statement provided by VCU.

It is noted at point 16 of the statement that reference is made to: *'Moreover, insofar as a representative of the LPA presents oral evidence on planning policy, VCU will also cross examine them.'* In response, the LPA would confirm that in accordance with the outcome of the CMC held on 13th January 2026 and Inspector's note provided on 20th January 2026, it is intended that the LPA will provide an updated written statement on planning policy relevant to the appeal application and for officers to be available to assist the Inspector with any policy queries during the Inquiry. It is not the Council's intention to call any officer to give any verbal evidence at the Inquiry, therefore it is not considered that there would be the opportunity for cross-examination by VCU. Rather VCU would be able to make submissions to the Inspector in respect of the written statement submitted by the LPA.

It is also noted that in the more recent email from PEDW dated 16th February 2026 (attached), reference has been made to *'The LPA's evidence on planning policy'*, however as confirmed above, it is not the Council's intention to present any evidence on planning policy.

We would be grateful if PEDW can please confirm that the above points are agreed.

Kind regards,

Sarah Feist

Principal Planner - Appeals and Enforcement

Development Management - Regeneration and Planning

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