

Hazardous Installations  
Directorate

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Head of Unit  
Mr N Johnson

**London Thames Gateway Development  
Corporation**

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Your reference: PA/08/0001LBTH -  
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Our ref: HID/CI3C/CAH/1108

For the attention of Stephen Allen, Planning Development Officer

Dear Sir or Madam

**DEVON WHARF, LEVEN ROAD, POPLAR, LONDON. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN  
CONSULTATION ZONE OF POPLAR GAS HOLDER STATION**

Thank you for the additional information sent by email on 3 November by Stephen Allen relating to the LTG letter of 22 October in which you informed HSE of the non-determination appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

To assist you with your submission to committee on 12 November and to reiterate my phone conversation with Stephen on 3 November, you should follow the correct procedure in line with planning guidance to obtain our formal advice using PADHI+ for the current planning application. This advice should be presented to the committee and should be taken seriously as another reason for a recommendation for refusal.

It is contrary to proper procedure that previous advice relating to the earlier proposals is being used to inform your judgement rather than our actual formal advice.

To assist the committee further, HSE will provide a supporting statement from Mr J Sawyer, an inspector from our land use risk assessment team, to inform the committee of the safety hazard presented by the gas holder. I will forward this to you as soon as it is prepared.

I'd also like to point out the advice in Circular 04/2000 is more strongly worded than has been expressed (your para 9.2 in the email) "...a determination of the planning authority contrary to [HSE's] advice should not be taken without **'the most'** careful consideration of the issues...". The Committee needs to be fully aware of all the issues, including safety, in order that they can give them the most careful consideration before reaching their decision.

It is important to be aware that information you received about HSE not wishing to ask the Secretary of State to call in the previous application, can not be relied upon for this application. We consider each application on a case by case basis, based on the risk it presents, and so a different decision for this application could be reached.

Please keep me informed of the committee's decision. HSE should be consulted and allowed 21 days to comment if a determination contrary to our formal advice is being considered.

If you decide to refuse planning permission on grounds of safety, HSE will provide the necessary support in the event of an appeal.

Because of the short timescales and the involvement of a Planning Inspector, HSE will also be providing a written representation to the Planning Inspectorate. We aim to take into account the committee's decision and deliberations.

If you have any questions please get in touch.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Hodkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail at the end.

**Adrian Hodkinson**  
**HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety**