



13 February 2012

## Press Release

### Planning Inspectorate appoints new Director of Wales

Planning Inspector Richard Poppleton has been appointed as the Director for Wales in the Planning Inspectorate. Richard, who has worked for 22 years as a Planning Inspector, will take up his new role officially from April 2012.

As the Director of the Planning Inspectorate Wales, Richard will contribute to the strategic development of the organisation as it undergoes a number of organisational changes over the next few years. He will be specifically responsible for the integrated management of all work carried out by the Inspectorate for Welsh Ministers.

In announcing the appointment, Sir Michael Pitt, Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate, said: "Richard will play a key leadership role, ensuring that our plans and strategies for Wales are fit for purpose and serve the particular needs of the Welsh Government. I am confident that he will ensure that the work of the Inspectorate in Wales maintains its reputation for the highest possible professional standards".

Richard said "I have been privileged to work exclusively in Wales for the last five years. During that time I have learnt much about the unique qualities of the Country and am committed to the care of its landscape, history, communities and future. I am delighted to have been given this opportunity to build upon the links that I have already developed in Wales to help manage the Country's precious assets and resources. In carrying out this task, I aim to maintain and enhance the reputation of the Inspectorate in Wales for fair, open and impartial decision making."

### Notes to Editors

1. The Planning Inspectorate is an Executive Agency of the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Government.
2. The main work of the Planning Inspectorate is the processing of planning and enforcement appeals and holding examinations into local plans.
3. The Inspectorate also deals with a wide variety of other planning related casework including listed building consent appeals, advertisement appeals, and reporting on planning applications called in for decision by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), or, in Wales, The Welsh Government. Other casework includes various

compulsory purchase orders, rights of way cases and cases arising from the Environmental Protection and Water Acts and the Transport and Works, Act and other Highways Legislation. In addition the Inspectorate processes applications for awards of costs which may arise from any of these.

4. The Coalition Government will, through the Localism Act 2011, integrate the Infrastructure Planning Commission into the Planning Inspectorate, within a National Infrastructure Directorate from 1 April 2012. The Welsh Government's sponsorship role extends to the Inspectorate's current work only.

5. The Director for Wales will be a member of the Inspectorate's Board. He will contribute to the strategic evolution of the Inspectorate in the context of its ongoing programme of corporate restructuring and culture change. He will be specifically responsible for the integrated management of all work carried out by the Inspectorate for Welsh Ministers.

6. The Director for Wales will also be responsible for directing the Cardiff office of the Planning Inspectorate. The office in Cardiff serves the Welsh Government and has 22 full and part-time administrative staff. There is a separate group of 13 Inspectors who undertake work in Wales.

7. Richard Poppleton replaces Peter Burley in the Director of Wales role. Peter will take on the role as Chief Planning Inspector for the Planning Inspectorate.

## **Career biography**

### **Richard Poppleton JP, DipTP, DMS, MRTPI**

Richard Poppleton is the Planning Inspectorate's new Director of Wales. He is a qualified planner, joined the Inspectorate in 1990 following a career in local government. He worked as a field inspector for some 12 years before taking up the post of Group Manager in Bristol in 2002. Following a return to English field work in 2005, he joined PINS Wales in 2006 as sub Group Leader and has since been involved in appeal casework and the management of inspectors within Wales.

During his career within the Inspectorate, he has dealt with a wide range of casework, including planning and listed buildings appeals, structure plan examinations and local plan inquiries. In addition, he has been responsible for recruiting and supervising salaried and non-salaried inspectors.

Further information:

Tasnim Coughlin  
Head of Communications  
Tel: 0117 372 8942

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