

## **Planning Briefing Note – October 2023**

### **Agents/Developers (Energy and Transmission Infrastructure) Briefing**

The Planning Service are to introduce Phase 1 of discretionary charging on Monday 9 October 2023.

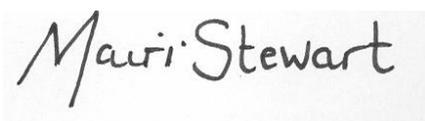
The rationale behind the discretionary charges, their purpose, and an overview of the fee categories were set out in my previous [briefing note](#). I now want to share with you the charges that will apply as of 9 October. I would reiterate that Phase 1 of the charging regime relates to large scale energy, transmission and infrastructure development only at this stage. Further phases of discretionary fees will follow in due course for other major development and local development as staffing resources allow. Further information will follow in advance of subsequent phases being rolled out.

The Council website will be updated with all the information required relating to the new charges and services, including the forms and how to pay. The updates should be available later this week in advance of the launch. Please get in touch with the Planning Service if you have any questions about starting or continuing with pre-application advice where a fee will now apply.

Charging will commence for the following services and the fees applicable are stated.

If you have any questions about the discretionary fees mentioned you can contact myself using the contact details above, or Wendy Forbes, Team Manager for the Strategic Development Delivery Team – [wendy.forbes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.forbes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,



**Mairi Stewart**  
**Planning Service Manager**

**Discretionary Fees**

Category of development	Fee Payable
<p><b>Pre-application advice</b> (for large scale energy, transmission and infrastructure development)</p> <p>Advice, written evaluation, consultee input, site visit, EIA scoping, meeting/workshop and review meetings. Refer to pre-application advice guidance for process.</p>	<p>£7200 (£6000 plus VAT)</p>
<p><b>Non-material variation</b> (for large scale energy, transmission and infrastructure development)</p> <p>Target Response – 28 days from receipt/validation</p>	<p>£240 (£200 plus VAT) per request</p>
<p><b>Discharge of conditions or compliance with conditions</b> (for large scale energy, transmission and infrastructure development).</p> <p>Target Response – 3 months from receipt/validation</p> <p>Refer to the priority service for more time critical developments.</p>	<p>£120 (£100 plus VAT) per request</p>

Category of development	Fee Payable
<p><b>Priority Determination Service</b> (for large scale energy, transmission and infrastructure development).</p> <p>For time critical developments</p> <p>This is an enhanced processing agreement to project manage the consenting process to guarantee a determination date. This service applies to planning applications and S36/S37 consultations under the Electricity Acts.</p>	<p>50% of statutory fee. The discretionary fee will also be subject to VAT.</p>
<p><b>Priority discharge of conditions or compliance with conditions</b> (for large scale energy, transmission and infrastructure development).</p> <p>For time critical developments</p> <p>Target Response - 6 weeks</p>	<p>£6000 (£5000 plus VAT) for first request.</p> <p>£3000 (£2500 plus VAT) for additional requests thereafter</p>

**Surcharges**

Category of development	Fee Payable
<p><b>Retrospective applications</b> (for large scale energy, transmission and infrastructure development)</p>	<p>Statutory fee plus 25%. The surcharge will also be subject to VAT</p>



## **Large Scale Energy, Transmission and Infrastructure Development**

The paid-for services are available for large scale energy, transmission and infrastructure projects. These consist of national and major development under the Planning Acts, and development proposals under the Electricity Acts for generating stations and transmission infrastructure (S36 and S37 applications where the Council are a consultee). Proposals under this category will consist of the following:

- Windfarms 50MW and over
- Solar Farms 50 MW and over
- Hydrogen development
- Carbon Capture Utilisation and storage (CCUS)
- Electricity grid infrastructure over 132kv
- Electricity storage and grid stability infrastructure 50MW and over
- Onshore infrastructure for offshore wind (underground cabling/substations)
- Offshore windfarm connections and landfall