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Dear Ms Davies

CLG Information Strategy Consultation

We welcome the opportunity to comment on CLG's Information Strategy. The English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) exists to support the policy making process by helping to coordinate the input of the ten National Park Authorities in England. It is governed by the Chairs of the ten Authorities. Our response represents the collective view of officers who are working within the policies established by the National Park Authorities (NPAs). Individual National Park Authorities may submit separate comments, which will draw on the specific issues for their particular area.

ENPAA has no comments on the corporate data on the performance of CLG (i.e. relating to pay/structure, expenditure and procurement costs) but as part of the Defra network and as Local Planning Authorities, National Park Authorities are committed to supporting the transparency agenda and playing their part in a coordinated response across Government. In order to enable NPAs to do this some of the data that CLG plans to publish needs to be provided with a National Park boundary level cut.

The National Park Authorities have the same requirement for sound evidence to underpin their Local Development Frameworks as other Local Planning Authorities have under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. We also have our duty to pursue under the Environment Act 1995 to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities. Provision by CLG of data cut to National Park boundaries were relevant would avoid such costs and inefficiency. Some of this information, for example planning statistics, will be provided to CLG by individual NPAs in their role as Local Planning Authorities and so we only ask for publication for the data to include NPAs. However, some information that informs National Park Management Plans and other local plans is collected by other bodies and here we would ask for CLG to provide, or ask those bodies to provide, the information cut to our boundaries. While data can be cut to National Park boundaries through local arrangements (which are not yet in place for all National Parks), this data does not then have robust comparability with the national data set. Also, commissioning extraction and analysis locally is costly and inefficient. Having CLG cut this data for us would avoid such costs and inefficiency, ensure a continuous source of this information and allow comparisons between areas and with the national data set.

English National Park Authorities Association

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The datasets of particular relevance to National Parks and National Park Authorities that are soon to be published are those for: Planning, Building and the Environment; some Housing data; some Regeneration and Economic Growth data; and the information on Neighbourhood Plans. They would be of value not just to NPAs but to CLG, other Government Departments and other organisations. It would also assist with CLG's fulfilment of their section 11A/17A duty to National Parks as explained in paragraph 118 of the [English National Parks and the Broads Circular 2010](#). This specifically says, 'as a contribution to the fulfilment of their section 11A/17A duty, but without incurring unreasonable cost, relevant authorities should collect, analyse and update data by Park area'.

ENPAA is happy to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter with you or provide further information if needed.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hamblin

Paul Hamblin
ENPAA Director

cc. Jeff Coast, CLG Protected Landscapes Team