



Request

The Government's Policy on Biodiversity and Ecosystems states that:

Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' that the Environment Act 2021 introduced. Please see full document [here](#).

Please advise how your plan for the development of this land, and its reallocation from Green Belt to Grey Belt, meets the requirements outlined in the document.

Response

We appreciate that you are concerned about the potential development at the 'Bridgewater West' site, which was included in a consultation on a draft of Wigan's new Local Plan earlier in the year.

At this point, the Council is still considering the representations that were made, and in due course there will be a full report to our Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation and the next steps. In view of this, we hope you will appreciate that the council cannot pre-empt that process by opening up a detailed discussion about what the next iteration of the plan may or may not say. All submitted comments received on the initial draft of the Local Plan while the formal consultation was under way are being taken fully into account.

The exception being applied is Regulation 12(4)(d) where a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that "the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data."

We are sorry we can't give you more specific answers on the points raised at this stage.

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