

# Public Inquiries and Appeals



## Overview

This course is a 'must attend' for any practitioner who may need to give evidence as an expert witness on behalf of a local authority, the private sector or promoter of a development. Simulating the real life speed and pressure of an Inquiry or Appeal environment, the course provides all the key background knowledge and skills support to help delegates formulate and articulate their arguments both in written and spoken form, and also helping them to build on their existing professional experience to develop the core skills needed to demonstrate strong and persuasive arguments.

Whilst based around a planning appeal, the course is equally applicable to those preparing to appear at an inquiry/appeal and those involved in LDF/policy or 'roundtable' style hearings.

The course is built around a mock inquiry for a major urban extension with its core purpose to develop the skills required in preparing and delivering robust and precise proofs of evidence. Delegates will also gain experience of the additional pressures imposed by speaking in public and dealing with cross-examination, and not forgetting the importance of making arguments clear and simple to understand so that all those present at the inquiry are on an 'equal footing'.

## Learning outcomes

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- an understanding of the aims and objectives of a public inquiry, the relevant policy, legislation and statements and regulations
- an understanding of the process, terms of procedure, the roles of the participants and the general feel of a public inquiry
- knowledge of how to prepare evidence for a public inquiry, how to produce proofs of evidence and to experience them being given and tested under realistic conditions
- participated in a mock inquiry including role play of the various participants, preparations of evidence, conduct and preparation of individual witnesses"

## Who should attend

All those involved or potentially involved in the preparation and presentation of evidence at public inquiries, hearings, appeals, commissions, and similar. They would include planning, highways, engineering and transport policy professionals as well as members of legal departments and chief executives' offices.

## Arrival and registration

### Introduction and objectives

#### Overview

Public Inquiry overview/Q and A's; The 'What Why Who' of Public Inquiries; Policy, legislation, Environmental Statement, Rule 6 Statements; Localism, The NPPF/NP Regs and CIL – Key implications

#### The inquiry Process and Procedures

Hierarchy of Policy considerations; The Role of the Programme Officer; Public Inquiry Timetables – document submissions, PINs, time extensions; Cost Applications – Process and Procedure; Planning your Pre-Inquiry preparation; When do I need a Barrister?; Dealing with Public/Press/Pressure Groups at Inquiry

#### Break

### Objectives and Techniques of Producing Evidence

#### Cross Examination Techniques

How to produce Evidence/Common Ground (and s106) Practical advice for setting out evidence; Negotiated agreed positions; Proposed planning conditions

#### Case Study examples

Kingswood -Lessons learnt from a recent appeal

#### Lunch

### Introduction to Mock Inquiry case study

#### Preparation for Mock Inquiry

Circulation of further background papers (Planning application and supporting documents plus Rule 6 Statements, Guidance on Common Ground)This will include the distribution of roles to delegates and Setting up of 'groups' that may wish to work together on evidence preparation; Conduct and preparation of individual witnesses

#### Break

### Preparation for Mock Inquiry continuation

#### Close of Day One

#### Day Two

### Arrival and tea

#### Peer Review of Evidence Proofs and Preparation Time

#### Mock Inquiry

#### Break

#### Mock Inquiry

#### Lunch

#### Mock Inquiry

#### Break

### Summary and Feedback

### Closing Session

\* Please note that that this is a preliminary course programme and is subject to change

