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**Overview**

This standard describes the requirements to make a screening decision, produce a scoping opinion or determination for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and to review an Environmental Statement (ES).

EIA is a systematic process to identify, predict, communicate and evaluate the environmental effects of proposed actions and projects. The key stages of EIA are:

1. Proposal identification
2. Screening
3. Scoping
4. Impact analysis
5. Mitigation
6. Preparation of Environmental Statement
7. Review
8. Decision-making
9. Follow up.

As a minimum, consultation with statutory bodies and interested parties should take place at the scoping and review stages of EIA. It should be stressed that whilst EIA is a statutory process for some developments, it is not strictly a linear process. EIA is a dynamic and iterative process requiring interaction between stages as the assessment progresses, with feedback loops enabling project proposals to be refined and adapted in response to the findings of the assessment.

This standard would be appropriate for

1. Responsible for determining whether EIA is legally required
2. Responsible for advising project proponents on the environmental topics that should be included within an EIA
3. Responsible for reviewing an Environmental Statement submitted in support of a planning application.

This standard is relevant as supporting information if you are

1. A specialist providing input and contributory sections for the ES
2. A consultant or project proponent required to undertake EIA for a development proposal.

### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

#### **Screen whether EIA is required for a project proposal**

- P1 analyse environmental information and project details to decide whether IEA is required
- P2 interpret and apply regulatory requirements
- P3 decide whether regulations apply to a project proposal
- P4 document a decision on the need for IEA
- P5 communicate a decision to the appropriate people.

*You must be able to:*

#### **Develop a scoping opinion or scoping direction for an EIA**

- P6 analyse a scoping report and other relevant local information
- P7 apply regulatory requirements
- P8 identify important or sensitive environmental characteristics
- P9 recognise potential significant impacts likely to arise from a project proposal, both in isolation and cumulative with other project proposals
- P10 engage with statutory consultees
- P11 interpret and consolidate advice from statutory consultees and colleagues
- P12 write a scoping opinion
- P13 communicate a scoping opinion to the appropriate people

*You must be able to:*

#### **Review an Environmental Statement**

- P14 analyse the information provided within the Environmental Statement
- P15 check compliance with regulatory requirements
- P16 identify any additional information requirements
- P17 recognise where specialist technical input is required for the review
- P18 communicate findings to the appropriate people

# LANNEM14

## Environmental Impact Assessment for planners

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the purpose of EIA and its relationship to the planning process
- K2 stages of the EIA process and statutory procedures
- K3 the location and content of relevant legislation, legal rulings, policy and guidance documents
- K4 the legal requirements for ES content and best practice standards for ES format and structure
- K5 ES quality review methods
- K6 possible environmental impacts arising from different types of project
- K7 assessment methods and potential cumulative interactions between EIA topics
- K8 who statutory consultees are, and when and how to communicate with them
- K9 how to advise project proponents, and their consultants, on your screening opinion, scoping opinion and the findings of your review of the Environmental Statement

# LANNEM14

## Environmental Impact Assessment for planners

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<b>Developed by</b>	LANTRA
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Environmental conservation; Conservation Associate Professionals
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<b>Suite</b>	Environmental Awareness and Management
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<b>Key words</b>	decision; opinion; determination; review; systematic
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