STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2020 No. 1398

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning, Development Management Procedure, Listed Buildings etc.) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

PART 4

Amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

11. After regulation 23, insert—

"Exception to requirement to ensure availability of copies of environmental statements

- **23A.**—(1) Paragraph (2) applies
 - (a) in a case that falls within article 15 of the Order or regulation 20;
 - (b) in a case to which regulation 23 applies; and
 - (c) if an applicant for planning permission or subsequent consent, or an appellant, who submits an environmental statement in connection with an application or appeal is not able to make copies of an environmental statement available at a named address because it is not reasonably practicable to do so for reasons connected to the effects of coronavirus, including restrictions on movement.
- (2) In a case falling within paragraph (1)(c), the applicant or appellant must—
 - (a) ensure that the any notices required under article 15 of the Order or regulation 20 state that the environmental statement is available on a website under that provision; and
 - (b) take reasonable steps to inform any persons who are likely to have an interest in the application or appeal to which the environmental statement relates, that the environmental statement is available on that website.
- (3) In paragraph (2)—
 - (a) the persons who are likely to have an interest in a planning application must include the persons who live or work in, or otherwise have a direct connection with, the area in which the proposed development is located; and
 - (b) the reasonable steps that are taken—
 - (i) may include use of social media and communication by electronic means; and
 - (ii) must be proportionate to the scale and impact of the development.

- (4) If the applicant or appellant complies with the requirements set out in paragraph (2) that applicant is treated as having discharged the obligation set out in regulation 23.
- (5) Where, in relation to an application to which article 15 of the Order applies, an applicant notifies the local planning authority under paragraph (2)(a) that any notices required under that article must state that the environmental statement is available on a website under that article, the authority is discharged from the requirement to provide an address where copies of the environmental statement can be obtained when that authority gives requisite notice under article 15.".