

PRESS RELEASE
Thursday, 19 August 2010

Leading Body Seeks Your Views to Influence Government Stance on EIA

Members of the largest environmental professional body are currently taking part in a large-scale UK survey to provide input into the European Commission review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive.

Over 13,000 members of **The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA)** have been invited to give details of their experiences of the effectiveness of the current (EIA) Directive including its costs, screening, scoping, suitability and future framework. However, IEMA also wants to hear from those people outside its membership who have views and experiences of EIA to share.

Not only will the outcome of the survey help to inform IEMA's own response to the European Commission's consultation but will also be used to influence the Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) and Scottish Government on what those involved in commissioning or undertaking EIA and reviewing Environmental Statements think about the Directive.

Josh Fothergill, Senior Adviser - Environmental Assessment at IEMA and leading authority on EIA, believes that opening up this survey to developers, planners and statutory consultees will strengthen the Governments' knowledge about the UK grassroots view of the Directive and thus help direct its future development. *"The European Commission is seeking the views of those involved in all aspects of EIA not just those of the Government of each Member State; therefore by participating in this survey individuals are helping to generate a better EIA Directive to meet the UK's needs."*

"We are very excited about the responses that we have already started to receive and look forward to working with the Government to form their stance." said Fothergill.

As the body that places the environmental practitioner at the heart of change, IEMA anticipates that the results of the survey will feed into the work it is currently undertaking on *The State of EIA Practice in the UK*, which aims to recognise existing issues in EIA and identify opportunities to improve the practical side of this process.

Any suitably experienced and interested individuals are invited to take part in IEMA's survey which can be accessed at <https://web.questback.com/instituteofenvironmentalmanage/eia001/>. The survey closes on Friday 3rd September, with early outcomes being published in the Institute's magazine, 'the environmentalist' during September.

For more information on IEMA, its policy, details of the EIA survey questions and the Institute's entire Environmental Assessment focus, contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or any contact details listed at the at the bottom of this release.

ENDS

For more information please contact;
Katrina Pierce, Communications Co-ordinator
E-mail: k.pierce@iema.net Tel: 01522 540069
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
St Nicholas House, 70 Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, UK
Tel: 01522 540069 Fax: 01522 540090
Website: www.iema.net

iema
The premier membership body
for environmental professionals

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, 19 August 2010

Notes to Editors

1. The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the membership body for environmental practitioners, placing environmental professionals at the heart of change.
2. IEMA helps its members to make a strategic environmental difference by embedding environment in decision making at all levels. We do this by helping members develop the right combination of knowledge about key environmental issues; the ability to apply key tools in practice; and required skills through knowledge exchange, research, conferences, training and publications.
3. With over 15,000 members working across business, consultancy, public and local authorities IEMA is the most authoritative professional body in the UK for environmental practitioners.
4. The survey is entitled "EIA Directive – review and consultation" and opened on Friday 6th August. It was sent to 13,042 individuals from IEMA's total 15,000+ membership and will close on Friday 3rd September.
5. For more information on IEMA, its events, conferences, services, membership, training and publications, please visit www.iema.net.
6. For further comment, interview requests, photographs or IEMA logos, please contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or 01522 540069.

For more information please contact;
Katrina Pierce, Communications Co-ordinator
E-mail: k.pierce@iema.net Tel: 01522 540069
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
St Nicholas House, 70 Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, UK
Tel: 01522 540069 Fax: 01522 540090
Website: www.iema.net

iema
The premier membership body
for environmental professionals