

Newport County Council
Sent by email
Date: 8th June 2026

Reference: XI/1811/116/8E

Chemicals, Explosives, Microbiological
Hazards Division – Explosives
Inspectorate

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<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Head of Unit and Chief Inspector of
Explosives – David Brown

Dear Sir/Madam,

**REQUESTS FOR ADVICE IN RESPECT OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF HSE
LICENSED EXPLOSIVES SITE**

PLANNING REF: 26/0191

**PROPOSAL: OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE CREATION OF A SECURE COMPOUND
AND THE INSTALLATION OF EXTERNAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT TO CREATE A
MODULAR DATA CENTRE TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT AND
STRUCTURES, ENGINEERING OPERATIONS, STAFF ACCOMMODATION AND
ASSOCIATED WORKS.**

LOCATION: LIBERTY STEEL, CORPORATION ROAD, NEWPORT, NP19 4XE

Thank you for your email of 30th April 2026 regarding the above planning application. The development is at approximately 4.364 RB from the licensed site i.e. at a greater distance than the 3 RB currently expected for this type of development.

Given the nature and the location of this type of development I would not expect there to be a significant impact on the outcomes of the original casualty survey.

As the proposed developments falls outside of SD2, but within SD3, of the nearby licensed explosive port. Provided that the none of the proposed developments constitute as "Vulnerable" HSE has no comment to make.

"Vulnerable building" means a building or structure of vulnerable construction, that is to say—

(a) a building of more than three storeys above ground or 12m in height constructed with continuous non-load bearing curtain walling with individual glazed or frangible panels larger than 1.5m² and extending over more than 50% or 120m² of the surface of any elevation;

(b) a building of more than three storeys above ground or 12m in height with solid walls and individual glass panes or frangible panels larger than 1.5m² and extending over at least 50% of any elevation;

(c) a building of more than 400m² plan area with continuous or individual glazing panes larger than 1.5m² extending over at least 50% or 120m² of the plan area; or

(d) any other structure that, in consequence of an event such as an explosion, may be susceptible to disproportionate damage such as progressive collapse.

This advice is provided in relation to the proximity of the development to an HSE licensed explosives site. If the development is also in the proximity of any other major hazards site or pipelines then advice should be sought through HSE's WebApp in the first instance - <https://pa.hsl.gov.uk/>

If you require further advice on this matter, please e-mail explosives.planning@hse.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Martyn Sime
HM Inspector of Explosives
HM Explosives Inspectorate
For and on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive