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**For the attention of: David Gibson – Case Officer**

Cumberland Council (Copeland area)

[By email: Development.Control3@cumberland.gov.uk]

1 October 2025

Dear David

**Re: 4/25/2321/0F1**

**Change of use of building to form a house in multiple occupation (HMO) and formation of external car parking area; 17 Irish Street, Whitehaven**

Thank you for your consultation letter of 25 September 2025 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above planning application.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

#### The Coal Authority Response

The application site does fall within the defined Development High Risk Area; however, and whilst a Coal Mining Risk Assessment does not appear to accompany the planning application, I can confirm that the **nature of development is listed as exempt** from Version 8, January 2025 of the Coal Authority's *Guidance for Local Planning Authorities*.

Accordingly, there is no requirement under the risk-based approach that has been agreed with the LPA for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment to be submitted with any planning application or for the Coal Authority to be consulted on this proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

# Chris MacArthur

**Chris MacArthur** *B.Sc.(Hons), DipTP, MRTPI*  
**Planning Liaison Manager**

## Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available coal mining data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by The Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by The Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the Applicant for consultation purposes.