



**UK BIM Alliance - Security Guidance  
Baseline Plain Language Questions (PLQ's)**

<b>Title of guidance:</b>	<i>Baseline PLQs</i>
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<b>Objective of guidance:</b>	<i>To provide guidance on the purpose of PLQs, considerations for baseline security and to provide example PLQs and relevant resources</i>

<b>Abbreviations/acronyms</b>	<b>Full name</b>
<i>BIM</i>	<i>Building Information Modelling</i>
<i>BEP</i>	<i>BIM Execution Plan</i>
<i>COBie</i>	<i>Construction operation building information exchange</i>
<i>EIR</i>	<i>Employer's Information Requirements</i>
<i>PLQ</i>	<i>Plain language question</i>

<b>Relevant/referenced sources</b>	
<i>BS 8536-1:2015</i>	<i>Briefing for design and construction – Part 1: Code of practice for facilities management (Buildings Infrastructure)</i>
<i>CPNI</i>	<i>Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure</i>
<i>PAS 1192-5:2015</i>	<i>Specification for security-minded building information modelling, digital built environments and smart asset management</i>

<b>Keywords:</b>	<i>PLQ, plain language question, information exchange</i>
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## Briefing note text

The success of Building Information Modelling (BIM) is based on the managed exchange of information throughout the project's lifecycle. This is so that critical decisions can be made by the client and their supply chain at the right point in time and in consideration of appropriate and accurate data and information.

The information required by the client and their supply chain can be determined by answering specific 'Plain Language Questions' (PLQs). The PLQs are typically identified in the Employers Information Requirements (EIRs) and are initially, therefore, a client consideration. However, the design and construction team should ensure that they understand the context and intent of the PLQs and advise how they will respond to the PLQs in the project's BIM Execution Plan (BEP).

A PLQ is a 'request (or a check) for information' expressed in simple, easy-to-understand terms (further information on PLQs can be found in BS 8536-1:2015). A PLQ is therefore a means of communicating information requirements.

PLQs might be answered using three types of Information:

1. Documents: Drawings, PDFs, certificates, reports
2. Data: COBie
3. Geometry: 3D models of the building and the systems and components within it.

PLQs should be drafted for each planned information exchange with the purpose for which the information is required through the PLQ being stated. PLQs can therefore be a means of establishing security measures in place for the project's lifecycle and this is an approach supported by PAS 1192-5:2015. This approach can be used to support baseline security requirements as well as enhanced security requirements.



CPNI suggests PLQs that might be relevant to a project and these can be found at: <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/digital-built-assets-and-environments> . An indication of PLQs appropriate to baseline security are suggested in the accompanying PLQ Excel Spreadsheet.

Notes: CPNI suggests the following PLQs which the client may use to check their own governance process and to ensure that proper consideration is made to project security requirements:

- Is the built asset sensitive, in whole or in part?
- Are any neighbouring built assets sensitive?
- Is there a need for a security-minded approach?

The questions are reflected in the triage processes recommended in PAS 1192-5:2015.

Finally, the success of PLQs depends upon the:

1. Clarity and appropriateness of the PLQs
2. Provision of correct, complete and relevant data/information in answering the PLQs
3. Effective implementation of the decisions resulting from the PLQ responses