
From: Kevin Bown [REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:06 PM
To: Rampion2 <Rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: Planning SE <planningse@nationalhighways.co.uk>; SouthEast_HESPA@systra.com; Marius Pieters [REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk>; Sarah Marshall [REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk>; Spatial Planning <SpatialPlanning@nationalhighways.co.uk>; transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
Subject: National Highways response (our ref NH23/03537 PINS IP ref 20045175) re Rampion 2 DCO Rule 6 letter and Appendix E 16 January 2024 deadline information

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Dear Mr Allen

I refer to your Rule 6 letter dated 14 December 2023 regarding the Rampion 2 DCO. It requires interested parties to submit a range of information no later than 16 January 2024.

Please find attached a letter comprising our Rule 6 and other responses.

You will note that we have been engaging with the applicant to progress matters that for us represent outstanding concerns and requirements. We remain committed to continue to work with the applicant to resolve all outstanding matters and will provide updates to the Examining Authority accordingly.

We trust that our submissions are in order and await further instructions in due course with regards how the Examination will proceed.

In the meantime, if you have any queries regarding our submissions, please contact me via our email inbox at planningse@nationalhighways.co.uk .

Regards

Kevin Bown BSc(Hons) MPhil CMS MRTPI Spatial Planner
Spatial Planning Team, South East Region Operations Directorate
National Highways | Bridge House | 1 Walnut Tree Close | Guildford | GU1 4LZ
Tel: [REDACTED] (patches through via Teams) **Mob:** [REDACTED]
Web: www.nationalhighways.co.uk



Our ref: NH23/03537
PINS registration ID: 20045175

Richard Allen
Lead Panel Member
for the Examining Authority
Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm Project
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6P

Kevin Bown
Spatial Planner
Operations (South East)
National Highways
Bridge House
Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

Email
planningse@nationalhighways.co.uk

Via E-Mail to:

16 January 2024

rampion2@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Mr Allen,

RAMPION 2
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS – Rule 6 and 16 January 2024 Deadline Responses

I refer to the Examining Authority ('ExA') Rule 6 letter dated 14 December 2023, including those deadlines set out in Appendix E of the letter. Please take this letter as National Highway's response to the Rule 6 letter dated 14 December 2023.

National Highways ('NH') is the government owned company which operates, maintains and improves the Strategic Road Network ('SRN') as the strategic highway company appointed under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act (2015) and in accordance with the Licence¹ issued by the Secretary of State for Transport.

NH is a statutory consultee to the planning process. It has a specific obligation to deliver economic growth through the provision of a safe and reliable SRN, in line with the provisions set out in DfT Circular 01/2022: *The strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable development*².

The Circular sets out how NH will work with developers to ensure that specific tests are met when promoting a scheme. This includes ensuring the transport impact is understood, any mitigation (or other infrastructure) is designed in accordance with the relevant standards and that environmental impacts are appraised and mitigated accordingly.

¹ Highways England: licence: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a80c317ed915d74e33fc43c/strategic-highways-licence.pdf>

² Strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable development <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-road-network-and-the-delivery-of-sustainable-development>

National Highways' (NH) responses to the Rule 6 letter are as set out below.

1. NH submitted its initial Relevant Representations ('RR') and Principal Areas of Disagreement ('PADS') on 3 November 2023. Please see NH comments on Relevant Representations attached as Appendix A to this letter.

2. NH confirm to the ExA that they will be attending the Preliminary Meeting in person on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at the Double Tree by Hilton Brighton Metropole.

The NH attendees will be:

- Kevin Bown, NH Spatial Planner
[REDACTED] [@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk)
- Sarah Marshall, NH Senior Lawyer
[REDACTED] [@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk)

3. NH seek to be heard on the following Agenda items;

a) The scope and timing of the ExAs Annex C consideration of the **Construction Effects** and **Traffic and Access** evidence as it relates to the NH Strategic Road Network (SRN) and any other NH assets. NH primary interest is the safety, reliability and operational efficiency of the SRN.

b) There is no Agenda item for an Issue Specific Hearing for Highways and Transport and related issues, unless it is the ExA intention to include matters concerning Highways and Transport within the Environmental Matters Issue Specific Hearing.

4. NH would need to attend any **Compulsory Acquisition hearing**.

5. NH would need to attend **draft DCO and Protective Provisions Issue Specific Hearings** and any other Issue Specific Hearings concerning matters related to the SRN and access to NH Land including compounds and the SRN.

6. NH is prepared to accompany the ExA on any site visits covering the A27 Hammerpot crossing and nearby compounds, or any other parts of the SRN. The locations of the SRN can generally be accessed from public places.



We hope that the above information provides all that the ExA require, but if any party has any queries, please contact me via planningse@nationalhighways.co.uk .

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Bown
Spatial Planner
Spatial Planning Team
South East Region Operations

National Highways comments on other RRs

NH has reviewed the RRs submitted by other parties.

We note that significant numbers of parties raise concerns with regards highways matters, be there general, local or strategic road network related. We believe this strengthens the case for having an Issue Specific Hearing on highways and related matters.

In particular we note that West Sussex County Council's RRs regarding Traffic and Transport echo our concerns and requirements as set out in the NH RR/PADs. Other authorities such as Horsham and Mid Sussex and the South Downs National Park also raise concerns that echo ours.

While it remains entirely possible that all our concerns and requirements can be fully addressed, at this point in time many matters remain outstanding.

We are committed to working with all parties to seek to resolve all the outstanding matters, but the onus is on the applicant to provide the necessary details and proposals for our assessment and to recognise the ways in which we are obliged to work; for example with regards following the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges or our legal requirements under our licence with regards the likes of Protective Provisions.