



Department for
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& Industrial Strategy

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To:

Your Ref:

Simon Mole FRICS
Partner, Infrastructures
Carter Jonas

(By e-mail only
simon.mole@carterjonas.co.uk)

Tim Sunderland
Project Executive
Southampton to London Pipeline
Esso Petroleum Company

(By e-mail only
info@slppproject.co.uk)

Date: 24 September 2020

Dear Simon Mole and Tim Sunderland,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Esso Petroleum Company Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Southampton to London Pipeline Project and associated infrastructure (“the Pipeline Project”)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. I write further to my letter of 5 August 2020 on behalf of the Secretary of State to the Applicant, the Ministry of Justice and other parties (which sought comments on, among other things, the use of land held by the Ministry of Justice for parts of the proposed Southampton to London Pipeline Project) and to the letters of 19 August 2020 and 17 September 2020 from the Applicant to the Secretary of State.
2. The Secretary of State notes that in its letter of 17 September 2020, the Applicant states that there have been discussions between the Applicant and the Ministry of Justice about the above matters and ‘agreement for a deed of easement has been reached’ However, the Secretary of State notes that no formal agreement between the parties has been

submitted to him nor has he received any formal confirmation of Ministry of Justice approval (although he further notes that it was anticipated a resolution would be forthcoming).

3. The Secretary of State notes the Applicant's view in the same letter that it considers development consent for the Pipeline Project could be granted in the absence of an agreement about use of the Ministry of Justice's land. However, the Secretary of State seeks confirmation of any outcome from the discussions between the parties in advance of any decision being taken on whether to grant or refuse consent for the Pipeline Project.
4. The Secretary of State would, therefore, as a matter of urgency, be grateful for updates from the Applicant and from the Ministry of Justice on the current state of discussions between the parties.

The deadline for responses is 23:59 on 28 September 2020.

5. Due to COVID-19, responses on the information requested should be submitted by e-mail only to:
SouthamptontoLondonPipeline@planninginspectorate.gov.uk .
6. Responses will be published on the Southampton to London Pipeline Project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 28 September 2020:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/southampton-to-london-pipeline-project/> .
7. This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Southampton to London Pipeline Project, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Leigh
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning