



Examination into DCO Application by H2Teeside by H2Teeside Limited

Royal Mail Group Limited's Deadline 5 (18 December 2024) Written Representation

Introduction

Royal Mail (IP number 20049394) submitted a Relevant Representation on 1 July 2024 and wish to submit this further consultation response to the Examination.

Royal Mail – relevant information

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom. The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

Royal Mail is under some of the highest specification performance obligations for quality of service in Europe. Its performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and this should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project.

Royal Mail's postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. Royal Mail's ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network.

Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail's operations, its ability to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail's business.

Royal Mail position as at December 2024

Reference the list and indicative plan below, Royal Mail has five operational properties within approximately 5km of the proposed DCO boundary:

1. BE 2692 Redcar Delivery Office (c 0.45km)
2. BE 731 Cleveland Parcelforce Depot(c 0.9km)
3. BE 2683 Middlesbrough Delivery Office (c 1.75km)
4. BE 2687 Stockton on Tees Delivery Office (c 4.35km)
5. BE 2686 Hartlepool Delivery Office (c 5 km)



Every day, in exercising its statutory duties Royal Mail vehicles use all of the main roads that may potentially be affected by the construction of H2Teaside. Any periods of road disruption / closure, night or day, on or to the roads immediately connected to the scheme or the surrounding highway network will have the potential to impact operations and may consequently disrupt Royal Mail's ability to meet its Universal Obligation service delivery targets.

Royal Mail's performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project. Accordingly, Royal Mail seeks to take all reasonable steps to protect its assets and operational interests from any potentially adverse impacts of proposed development.

Royal Mail does not wish to stop or delay H2Teaside from being consented and constructed. However, Royal Mail does wish to ensure the protection of its future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivering service to the public from and to the above identified operational facilities in accordance with its statutory obligations.

As set out in Royal Mail's Relevant Representation, in order to protect Royal Mail's position, it is requested that wording is added to the Outline Construction Transport Management Plan (OCTMP) to secure the following mitigations, with particular regard to Royal Mail's local operational properties as referenced above:

1. the OCTMP includes specific requirements that during the construction phase Royal Mail is notified by H2 Teaside Limited or its contractors at least one month in advance on any proposed road closures / diversions / alternative access arrangements, hours of working;
2. where road closures / diversions are proposed, H2 Teaside Limited or its contractors liaise with Royal Mail at least one month in advance to identify and make available alternative highway routes for operational use, where possible; and



3. cumulative highways impact from other major developments in the local area is fully addressed during the Examination.

Any further consultation information on this infrastructure project and any questions of Royal Mail should be sent to:

██████████ (██████████@royalmail.com), Senior Planning Lawyer, Royal Mail Group Limited

██████████ (██████████@realestate.bnpparibas), Director, BNP Paribas Real Estate

Please can you confirm receipt of this consultation response by Royal Mail.