



## Hearing Transcript

<b>Project:</b>	H2 Teesside
<b>Hearing:</b>	Recording of Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)
<b>Date:</b>	15 January 2025

**Please note:** This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

It is not a verbatim text of what was said at the above hearing. The content was produced using artificial intelligence voice to text software. It may, therefore, include errors and should be assumed to be unedited.

The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

# TRANSCRIPT\_H2TEESSIDE\_OFH1\_SESSIO N1\_15012025

00:04

Good afternoon. It's now 2pm and time for this open floor hearing to begin. I would like to welcome you all to this open floor hearing for the H 2t side project. Formal purpose of the open floor hearing is to discharge the examining authority's duty to interested parties who have requested to be heard an open floor hearing is an opportunity for the interested parties to make their case for on any relevant matter orally. It is therefore an opportunity for the examining authority to hear first hand your thoughts about the application. However, before we formally open this open floor hearing the examining authority and the examining authority introduces itself. There are a few preliminary matters I need to deal with. Firstly, can I ask the case, case team to confirm that you can hear me and the lives, the live streaming for this recording and the digital the live streaming for the recording has started? Please.

01:01

Yes, I can hear you, and I'm just waiting for the livestream to start. Yeah, it's working.

01:07

Okay. Thank you very much. Could I also ask that all audible notifications for electronic devices, including mobile phones, be switched off, or at least turn to silent, and it asks you to keep your camera switched off and microphone switches to mute unless you're actually speaking this will help reduce the background noise and assist with broadband width. Additionally, I've I've not been advised of any special requests for special measures or arrangements to enable participation in this hearing, but I just want to confirm that's correct is that the case getting no indication. So I'm going to move on having resolved these preliminary matters and having confirmed that the live stream in the digital recording has commenced, I would advise this open floor hearing related to the h2 Teesside national infrastructure project is now open. Moving on to introductions, I'll keep this as brief as possible, and I would introduce myself as Christopher Butler. I am a chartered member of the royal Town Planning Institute and have academic qualifications in Town and Country Planning. I am the lead panel member for this application, along with my colleagues, Matthew Sims and Sharon Bennett Matthews, we are appoint. We were appointed on the 22nd of May 2024, under Section 65 of the Planning Act, 2008 under delegation from the Secretary of State. And we constitute the examining authority for this application, we will be reporting to the Secretary of State for energy security and net zero with a recommendation as to whether or not the development consent order should be made. I'll ask my colleagues to briefly introduce themselves, please with Mr. Sims first.

02:37

Yes, good afternoon. I'm Matthew Sims. I am a chartered civil engineer and a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. And

02:44

Miss Bennet Matthews, please Good afternoon. I am Sharon Bennett. Matthews, I'm a qualified solicitor. Is planning law. Thank you very much.

02:53

We have all made a declaration of interest responding to the in the planning specter conflict of interest policy, and I can confirm that we have no declarable interest in relation to this appointment. There are two colleagues with us this afternoon from the planning Inspectorate. You'll already have spoken to ramuel Burney, one of the planning Spectras case team working on this application. When you join the conference. We also have Lily Robins, who is the case manager for this national infrastructure project, available and present today. In addition, production 78 and audio and visual production company is in attendance today, but this is solely for the purposes of managing recording and the live streaming of the meeting. We may have other members of the inspectorate join us today, but that will only be in terms of continuing professional development, and they will take no part in in the hearing at all. If you have any questions regarding the application process in general, could I ask in the first instance, you please be direct to the case team who'd be happy to try and assist you. In terms of parties wishing to speak at the open floor hearing, as I've already said, the formal purpose of this open floor hearing is discharge our responsibility to interested parties who have requested to be heard. And as I've said, it is an opportunity for those interested parties to make their case on any relevant matter orally. It is therefore an opportunity for the examining authority to hear first hand, the thoughts of those parties about the application. A number of interested parties requested to speak at this open floor hearing, or have reserved their right to speak at this open floor hearing. However, many of them haven't actually attended or registered to speak. The mission to seafarers have registered to speak, and it's our understanding that they don't wish to actually speak on any any of the gender items. They're just here if and present if called upon. Furthermore, there are no other interested parties who have requested an open floor hearing or reserved a right to speak, who have actually registered to speak. The parties that had registered but haven't attended are BOC limited, Natura global limited and Venator materials limited. Yes, I would like, therefore ask, are there any parties present, actually, who wish to speak at this open floor, hearing, bearing in mind its purpose as set out like as outlined above. If not, I intend to close this open floor hearing, straight away, as the mission to seafarers are the only party that are actually here present, I'd open an actual question to them. Do you actually want to say anything specific, or are you just here to to witness the the open floor hearing?

05:29

Yeah, Governor. So no, I sit here to witness it. I mean, I've been trying to attend as many meetings this week as possible, because I have got a vested interest with vision and seafarers, with a building in off seal sounds road, and I just wanted to understand a lot more about the the

05:49

projects, the development around it, who's involved, who are, what are the concerns? And I've learned a lot this bit by being here. I can't think of any specifically that I want to ask that hasn't been picked up or I've been told, okay, in other meetings, but thank you for asking. Okay, well, in that case, what I would say, Mr. Craig, is, I will propose to close this meeting straight away, because there's nobody else that actually wants to say anything, and therefore it's not a good use of the examining authority's

time to proceed on that basis. So if there's no other parties that wish to speak, I'm going to move straight to close this hearing, as nobody has responded or indicated that they are wishing to speak at this open floor hearing, I will move to close it, as I've just said, for those parties present today, we thank you for your tendency. We're a short, short duration. A digital recording of the proceeds to that proceedings today will be made available as soon as possible on the project page of the national infrastructure website. Should any party still wish to make a contribution to this open floor hearing, but felt they were unable to do so, for whatever reason, they can make this contribution in writing by deadline, six A which is Wednesday the 22nd of January, 2025, following this afternoon's open floor hearing, there is no longer a need to use the reserve date for any hearings. And that was reserve date was Thursday the 16th of January 2025 at 10am as such, I would confirm the reserve date for this open floor hearing and all of the other hearings this week has been canceled. And in accordance with my rule eight, three and 13, letter of the ninth of December, 2024, no other notice is required of this cancellation. Once again, I thank all parties here today watching the live stream and listening to this digital recording for their interest in this application. The time is now four, 1407, and I declare the open floor hearing into the proposed h 2t, side, nationally significant infrastructure project closed. Thank you. Applause.