



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

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Our Ref: GOEM 8/1/2/15

Date: 2 August 2010

Dear Sir or Madam,

**HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE A47 TRUNK ROAD (POSTWICK INTERCHANGE SLIP ROADS) ORDER 20 __ and
THE A47 TRUNK ROAD (POSTWICK INTERCHANGE SIDE ROADS) ORDER 20 __**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (“the Secretaries of State”) to refer to the above Orders, published in draft on 13 November 2009, and to the letters of objection received in response to the Orders and correspondence received subsequently. The Secretaries of State have considered whether in the light of these remaining objections and correspondence they should in the circumstances exercise their powers in paragraph 7(2) to Schedule 1 of the Highways Act 1980 and dispense with holding a local public inquiry.
2. The Secretaries of State have given careful consideration as to whether the matters raised in these remaining objections and in correspondence received during the post-objection period, would allow them to reach a decision on the draft Orders without holding a local inquiry that was fair and reasonable to all parties.
3. In reaching this decision, the Secretaries of State have:
 - taken into account the nature and weight of the objections remaining in this case;



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- considered whether a decision which adequately addresses the various objections, representations and issues in relation to the draft Orders can be reached without holding an inquiry, or whether an inquiry is required for that purpose; and
- weighed conflicting public interests, ensuring that all grounds of objection are properly taken into account.

4. In so doing, the Secretaries of State are satisfied that in the circumstances of this case the remaining objections raise issues of such significant public importance that they should be debated publicly at a local inquiry and that an inquiry is likely to produce significant new information relevant to their decision. The Secretaries of State have therefore decided that in the circumstances a local public inquiry should not be dispensed with and consequently the Highways Agency will, subject to paragraph 5 below, put in hand the necessary arrangements to hold a local inquiry.

5. As you will be aware the Government has made clear its most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record budget deficit to restore confidence in the economy and support the recovery. As part of its plan to eliminate the deficit over the course of this Parliament, the Government will undertake a full spending review, reporting in the autumn. It has therefore been decided that until the Government's spending review has been concluded, the Department for Transport will not be in a position to identify those major infrastructure projects it can support, consistent with the Government's objectives. In view of the uncertainty over the availability of the funding for the scheme, it has been decided to defer, for the time being, the holding of a local inquiry. The way forward on this scheme should become clearer once the spending review is complete.

6. A copy of this letter has been sent to all those who have maintained an objection or made representations about the draft Orders.

Yours sincerely

W H WISEMAN
Transport Director