

Sent via email

22 March 2012

Dear Mr Burgess

Proposed A556 Knutsford to Bowdon Scheme

Thank you for your letter and email dated 6 March 2012 regarding the above proposal.

This proposal is currently at the pre-application stage of the process, at this stage the IPC is unable to process or respond to comments. This ensures the impartiality of the IPC and protects the interests of all parties involved in the process. However, correspondence received by the IPC during this stage will be retained on file and made available to the Commissioner once the application is submitted.

As you are aware the Highways Agency is currently consulting with local communities and statutory consultees on their proposal in accordance with the duties which the Planning Act 2008 places upon them. At this stage, I would suggest that engaging in this consultation is the most appropriate action.

As your letter raises concerns with the consultation being carried out you may also wish to send a copy of your correspondence to the relevant local authority. When an application is submitted to the IPC (following the pre-application stage), a decision will be made within 28 days, as to whether the application will progress to the examination stage. During this stage the local authority consultees will be invited to provide their comments on the adequacy of the developer's consultation.

If the application is accepted for examination, there will be the opportunity to register your views with the IPC and participate in the examination by completing a relevant representation form. Details about how and when to register will be publicised by the developer in local newspapers and on site notices. Please note that you are unable to register as an interested party during the current (pre-application) stage of the process for this proposal.

Further information about how to participate in the application process can be found in our advice notes. A link to the relevant section of our website is provided below. At the pre-application stage "*Advice Note 8.1: How the process works*" and "*Advice Note 8.2: How to have your say on a major infrastructure proposal*" may be of particular interest.

<http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/our-guidance-and-advice/>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the address or email provided.

Yours sincerely



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We are required by law to publish on our website a record of the advice we provide and to record on our website the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. We will however protect the privacy of any other personal information which you choose to share with us and we will not hold the information any longer than is necessary.

Before sending information to the IPC, please consider our Openness Policy, which can be viewed on our website or a copy will be provided free of charge on request