

Mrs J A Popley

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27 February 2012

Dear Mrs Popley

Proposed A556 Knutsford to Bowden Scheme

Thank you for your correspondence dated 05 February 2012 regarding the above proposal.

The proposed A556 Knutsford to Bowden Scheme is currently at the pre-application stage of the process. Due to the nature of the planning regime established by the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008), at the pre-application stage the IPC is unable to process and respond to comments on the merits of a scheme. This ensures the impartiality of the IPC and protects the interests of all parties involved in the process.

As you are aware the Highways Agency is currently consulting with local communities 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. Their project website can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/14909.aspx>

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), we have a 28 day period during which a Commissioner will decide whether to accept the application to progress to the examination stage. During this time we will invite relevant local authorities to provide us with their comments on the adequacy of the promoter's consultation.

If, following submission of the application, the IPC accepts the application for examination, there will be an 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 via on site notices. Further project information, including how to register, will also be available on the IPC website at the relevant stage

For further information on the IPC and the specifics of the process which is to be followed you may wish to read advice that we have published. All of our advice is available via our website at www.infrastructure.independent.gov.uk.

At this stage I would suggest reading the enclosed advice notes, namely 8.1 (how the process works), 8.2 (how to have your say on a major infrastructure proposal) and 8.5 (The examination process) which will provide you with further information pertaining to your query.

Please be advised that I am the Case Manager for this proposal, whereas Mr. David Price is the Senior EIA and Land Rights advisor within the IPC team.

Furthermore as of 1 April 2012, as part of the Localism Act, the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will be abolished and a new National Infrastructure Directorate will be created within the Planning Inspectorate, an agency of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The move to the Planning Inspectorate will be seamless and the examination of applications for major infrastructure projects will not be delayed. You should however note that as from 1 April 2012 any correspondence about major infrastructure projects will be addressed from the National Infrastructure Directorate, Planning Inspectorate.

If you have any questions about this or major infrastructure projects please contact us by calling 0303 444 5000

Yours sincerely

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The IPC gives advice about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). The IPC takes care to ensure that the advice we provide is accurate. This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should note that IPC lawyers are not covered by the compulsory professional indemnity insurance scheme. You should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

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