

Our ref: M20Jct10aScheme
Your ref: TR010006

Mike Ebert
Examining Authority
Major Applications & Plans
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Salvatore Zappala
Project Manager
Highways England
2A Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford GU1 4LZ

Enquiries:0300 123 5000

21 November 2016

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Ebert

Draft M20 Junction 10a Development Consent Order Planning Act 2008 Response to Rule 6 letter

I refer to the above-mentioned application for the development consent order which was accepted on 11 August 2016 for examination by the Planning Inspectorate, and your letter dated 28 October – Notice of Preliminary Meeting.

Preliminary Meeting

Highways England note the requests made in Annex F and are content to speak to these at agenda item 5. We also wish to speak at agenda item 6, draft timetable for the examination, and give notice of our submission below.

A number of documents are requested for deadline 3, both from the applicant and other parties. Only the written representations are subject to a statutory minimum notice period, 21 days, but by custom the Local Impact Report and responses to ExA questions are allowed a similar period.

When a standard two week break for Christmas and the New Year is taken into account, fewer than 21 days will be available – especially for answering written questions. This is likely to be problematic for local authorities and other statutory bodies as key staff members may be absent over this period.

We notice that following deadline 4, which allows for comment on deadline 3 submissions, there is a pause of three weeks. It will be possible to use this dormant time to alleviate the pressure over the festive period.

Highways England request that deadlines 3 and 4 are both delayed by 10-14 days, to allow for public holidays at Christmas and New Year. We consider that this will not have consequential effects to the examination timetable.

A similar problem occurs for deadline 7 (if required), which allows 21 days to respond to comments on responses to ExA's questions and 14 days on the ExA's draft DCO. However, the period leading up to 21 April includes public holidays for Good Friday and Easter Monday. This will be problematic for respondents if key staff members are taking leave for the Easter Holidays.

Fortunately there is a corresponding gap between deadline 7 and the provisional dates for a second round of hearings, also of three weeks. Highways England request that deadline 6 is delayed by 10-14 days to allow for public holidays at Easter. We consider that this will not have consequential effects on the examination timetable.

Open floor hearing

Highways England will attend the open floor hearing following the Preliminary Meeting and will listen carefully to submissions from members of the public. If necessary, we may reply to points raised at deadline 1, but we do not intend to respond at the hearing.

Yours sincerely



Salvatore Zappala
Major Project South
Email: Salvatore.Zappala2@highwaysengland.co.uk