

Contact:

Keith Dove

Direct Line:

Email:

Our Ref:

T/T/J10a

Your Ref:

www.luton.gov.uk

Engineering & Transportation
Transportation Strategy
Town Hall
Luton LU1 2BQ

Tel: 01582 546000
Fax: 01582 546453



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Mark Southgate
Director of Major Applications and Plans
Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
BRISTOL
BS1 6PN

19 April 2013

Dear Mark

**EXAMINING AUTHORITY REPORT TO DfT MINISTER CONFIRMING
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR M1 JUNCTION 10a IMPROVEMENTS**

As you will be aware, the Examining Authority has conducted the second round of hearings this week into the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the M1 Junction 10a improvements. I understand that PINS allows up to 6 months for DCO hearings, commencing from the date of the pre-hearing meeting, and that after this the Examining Authority has 3 months to prepare his report at the end of which it is submitted to the relevant Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then has 3 months to confirm the Examining Authority's Decision.

The pre-hearing meeting for the Junction 10a scheme was held on 15th November 2012, so on this basis it is expected that the hearings will be completed by 15th May, with the Examining Authority submitting his report to the Secretary of State for Transport by 15th August.

The reason that I am writing to you is because, as you are probably aware, the scheme is principally being funded by the second round of the Government's Regional Growth Fund (RGF2), the funds for which are supposed to be spent by 31st March 2015. In Order to use up the RGF2 funding by that date, given the above timescales for the DCO process, the Council has been twin-tracking the Statutory Procedures with the procurement of the contractor. As the scheme will take about 18 months to construct, it is necessary to let the contract in October 2013 in order that the contractor can start work.

The last DCO hearing is currently planned for Tuesday 30th April. Given the extremely low number of objections/representations to the M1 Junction 10a DCO, together with the fact that there are no outstanding issues with the affected landowners and Statutory Bodies, I would anticipate that the Examining Authority could complete his report and submit it to the Secretary of State for Transport before 15th August.

In the light of the above I would be grateful if you could confirm, by return, the date you expect the Examining Authority will submit his report to the Secretary of State.

Please note that I have also written to the Department for Transport to ensure that they are aware of these timescales in order to turn around the Secretary of State's decision as soon as he receives the Examining Authority's report.

I look forward to your confirmation that the report to the Secretary of State will be submitted in advance of PINS usual timescales. In the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to further discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely



Keith Dove
Transportation Strategy & Regulation Manager