

Thank you for that. As requested, I set out below, a matter which I would like to see addressed at the meeting.

I would like the Panel to give us a statement as to its independence (and that of its members) of The Secretary of State, The Department for Transport and The Highways Agency/Highways England ("HA"). I believe this is important because the political will behind the proposals is immense and opponents of the scheme need to be satisfied that the examination by the Planning Inspectorate will be impartial and challenging of these governing bodies.

I am concerned that government, in its various forms, is intent on proceeding with this scheme, regardless of due process. Here are some concrete examples:

- On 8 May 2014, Jacobs, on behalf of HA, stated that "there is no realistic chance of the route being changed at this late stage". At that time, there were over 5 weeks remaining of the consultation period.
- On 7 May 2014, The Hunts Post carried a headline "Highways Agency urged to 'get on with it' over the A14". In this article, Mike Evans, senior project officer for the A14 scheme, was quoted as saying "Overall, the response has been very positive.....by and large there is lots of support for the scheme.....". The purpose of his comments can only have been to influence people during the remaining 5 weeks of the consultation period, when HA should have been listening to the views of others.
- Between 14 May 2014 and 20 August 2014, I sent three emails to the Secretary of State, setting out my concerns over the consultation process (I can make these available to the Panel). None were answered but they were sent to HA for action – the very body which I was criticising. There was no intent to take the concerns seriously.
- On 22 April 2015, Jonathan Djanogly MP was quoted in the Hunts Post as saying "...the decision has been taken. This road is now happening...". This does not give me confidence in the examination process as he obviously believes the process is a formality.

I suggest that the appropriate agenda item to consider this point would be "Examining Authority's remarks on the examination process". I am content to ask this question in the meeting or have it referred to by the Chair when the matter is addressed.

Kind regards

Richard Norton

-----Original Message-----

From: A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon

[<mailto:A14CambridgetoHuntingdon@pins.gsi.gov.uk>]

Sent: 27 April 2015 09:11

To: 'Richard norton'

Subject: RE: FOA Nicholas Coombes re Preliminary Meeting

Dear Mr Norton

I have added you to the list of attendees


Kind Regards

Richard White
Assistant Case Officer
Major Applications & Plans
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-----Original Message-----

From: Richard norton [<mailto:> 
Sent: 25 April 2015 19:12
To: A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon
Subject: FOA Nicholas Coombes re Preliminary Meeting

Dear Mr Coombes

I wish to advise you that I am planning to attend the Preliminary Meeting on 13 May.

Yours sincerely

Richard Norton

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