

Dear Sirs

We are instructed by Network Rail in relation to the above matter.

Network Rail are in discussions with Highways England in order to try to secure the protections which they require in order to withdraw their objection, and would hope that this can be achieved as soon as possible. However as at the time of writing Network Rail is not in receipt of the necessary legally binding assurances that it would enable it withdraw its objection and must therefore protect its position by continuing to engage with the examination process.

Unless the Examining Authority specifically requests their attendance, Network Rail does not intend to attend the Preliminary Meeting, however in light of its continuing objection to the scheme it is important that provision is made in the Examination Timetable for their attendance at any compulsory acquisition hearings and any issue specific hearings in relation to the DCO (which does not currently contain protective provisions in their favour). We would be grateful if appropriate provision could be made to allow such attendance.

Best regards

Stephen Dagg

Associate

for and on behalf of Bond Dickinson LLP

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