

Natasha Kopala
Head of TWA Orders Unit
Department for Transport Zone 1/14 -18
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4 DR

Your ref:
Our ref:
Email: Louise.Staples@NFU.org.uk
Direct line: 07799384359
Date: 7th May 2019

Dear Madam,

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme DCO 2016

Application for a Non-Material Change under Section 153 of the Planning Act 2008

Thank you for your letter dated 18 April 2019, requesting our comments on HE's response to issues raised over the application for a Non-Material Change under Section 154 of the Planning Act 2008.

The NFU has read the responses and assessment that HE has provided to landowners affected and the NFU.

The NFU understands that HE has driven the local routes with a tractor and trailer which HE is proposing agricultural vehicle to use instead of the A14, and has stated this will only take an extra 10 minutes. No details have been provided as to the type, size, speed, capacity, or load of the tractor and trailer, as well as the time of day the routes were driven.

The NFU would like to state that it is very different driving a loaded trailer, e.g. with Heston bales or a full grain trailer at harvest, compared to an empty load. The load and road conditions will determine the speed at which an agricultural vehicle can travel. In addition, the NFU would like to see that a self-propelled sprayer and a combine harvester is also tested along the route.

To do this, the NFU would like an independent body to be instructed to drive the local routes being proposed, with a variety of vehicles and equipment, to clarify exactly the time taken, at a variety of times during the day. Video recording of these trials would be suggested.

This assessment should clarify whether it is possible to drive large agricultural vehicles through Brampton, or any other village, whilst negotiating street furniture, parked local vehicles and accommodating other road users.

When this survey work is completed, this can inform whether the local routes are satisfactory to meet the needs of the local agricultural farm businesses.

NFU would like to thank HE for confirming that Cambridgeshire County Council has confirmed that there is no longer a specific licensing scheme for agricultural vehicles and that they are exempt from the Environmental Weight Restriction in Huntingdon. Further, that in Brampton, agricultural vehicles are exempt from the 7T weight restriction.

Department Name/NFU Policy/September '11/draft.

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The NFU will inform its membership of the above.

Yours faithfully

Louise Staples MRICS FAAV
Senior Rural Surveyor