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All interested parties and others

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010019

Date: 23 October 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13 and Rule 16**

**Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent
for the M4 Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway**

**Notification of hearings and site inspection in the company of interested
parties and notification of procedural decision**

I write to all interested parties to announce the dates, times and places of forthcoming hearings which will be held in the week commencing 16 November 2015, and the dates, times and meeting places for a site inspection to be held in the company of interested parties on 10, 11 and 12 November 2015. Important details about both are set out at **Annex A** and **Annex B** respectively.

I also write to make interested parties aware of a procedural decision I have made in relation to the notice to be given by the applicant for the forthcoming hearings.

Hearings

As set out in the examination timetable annexed to my letter of 11 September 2015, those interested parties who wish to speak at an open floor or compulsory acquisition hearing were asked to notify the Planning Inspectorate by 2 October 2015. The Planning Inspectorate received 15 requests from interested parties to be heard at an open floor hearing and consequentially such a hearing must be held. Five requests were also received from affected persons for a compulsory acquisition hearing to be held, and consequentially such a hearing must also be held. I have also decided to hold hearings on specific issues. Details of and arrangements for these hearings are set out at **Annex A**.

I should be grateful if you would inform us if you plan to attend any of the hearings (even if you do not wish to speak) **no later than 9 November 2015**. It would also assist us if you could notify the case team of any special needs you may have (e.g.

disabled access, hearing loop etc). Please ensure that you include your interested party reference number in your correspondence.

An agenda for each of the hearings will be published on our website in the week before each event.

Accompanied site inspection

Capacity on the minibus that will be used for the accompanied site inspection will be **very limited**. Priority attendance will therefore be afforded to the Planning Inspectorate, the applicant, local authorities and relevant statutory consultees.

Where requests have been received for the site inspection to meet certain interested parties at specific locations on the route, these will, where practicable, be included in the final itinerary. Interested parties who intend to meet the inspection at a specific location should pay close attention to the approximate timings included in the final itinerary, which will be published on our website on **26 October 2015**. I would emphasise that the schedule for each of the three days of the inspection is extremely tight, and I will therefore be unable to wait at locations for any interested parties who are late.

If you feel that your attendance for the duration of the accompanied site inspection is vital, it will be important for you to inform us of your desire to attend **no later than 2 November 2015**. Again, any special needs you may have should be made clear.

Please also note that if any of the events scheduled at **Annex A** or **Annex B** are no longer required, reasonable notice will be provided to interested parties of my decision to cancel them.

Procedural decision

In relation to the notice given by the applicant of the forthcoming hearings to be held in the week commencing 16 November 2015, I have made a procedural decision to direct the applicant to carry out its duties in accordance with Rule 13(6) of the The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) no later than 30 October 2015.

Rule 13(6) states that unless the Examining Authority otherwise directs, the applicant must not later than 21 days before the date fixed for the commencement of a hearing, in summary, post and maintain a notice of the hearing in a conspicuous place and in places where public notices are usually posted in the area and publish a notice of the hearing by local advertisement in the area. By undertaking these duties from 30 October 2015 the applicant provides 17 days' notice before the date fixed for the commencement of the hearings.

Please note that in respect of this procedural decision, I write to interested parties for information purposes only. This procedural does not affect the examination timetable in any way and you are not required to respond to it.

If you have any queries about the content of this letter and its annexes, please do not hesitate to contact the case team in the usual way.

Yours faithfully

Wendy Burden

Wendy Burden
Examining Authority

Annexes

Annex A - Dates, times and places for forthcoming examination hearings

Annex B - Dates, times and meeting places for site inspection in the company of interested parties

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the National Infrastructure Planning website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Dates, times and places for forthcoming examination hearings

Issue specific hearings

Please be advised that the Examining Authority (ExA) will hold hearings under Section 91 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) on the following dates:

Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Tuesday 17 November 2015	Private Room 38, Radisson Blu Edwardian Heathrow Hotel, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW	Start 10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Issue Specific Hearing 1 Issue specific hearing dealing with matters relating to the environment , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>traffic forecasting</i> – the status of submitted traffic forecasts as the basis for assessment of environmental impacts; • <i>air quality</i> – construction phase and operational phase; • <i>noise</i> – construction phase and operational phase; • <i>visual impact</i> – including night time impact during construction phase and operational phase; and • <i>water environment</i> – flooding, drainage and water quality.
Wednesday 18 November 2015	Private Room 38, Radisson Blu Edwardian Heathrow Hotel, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW	Start 10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Issue Specific Hearing 2 Issue specific hearing dealing with matters relating to the environment (continued).
Wednesday 18 November 2015	Private Room 38, Radisson Blu Edwardian Heathrow Hotel, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW	Start 2.00pm (seating available from 1.30am)	Issue Specific Hearing 3 Issue specific hearing dealing with matters relating to the traffic safety (to commence after conclusion of environment hearing).

Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Thursday 19 November 2015	Private Room 38, Radisson Blu Edwardian Heathrow Hotel, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW	Start 10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Issue Specific Hearing 4 First issue specific hearing dealing with matters relating to the draft Development Consent Order (and Explanatory Memorandum).

If you wish to participate in or observe at any of the issue specific hearings scheduled for 17, 18 and 19 November 2015, please let the Case Manager (Richard Price) know by emailing M4Junction3to12@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 9 November 2015** indicating your wish to attend and the topics in respect of which you wish to speak.

Agendas for the issue specific hearings will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing to which they relate taking place.

The time allocated for each of the hearings has been estimated based on the matters identified for consideration. Should a hearing take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to. Equally, if there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any hearing, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day, or adjourn the hearing and continue at a subsequent sitting.

Compulsory acquisition hearing

Please be advised that the ExA will hold a hearing under Section 92 of the PA2008 on the following date:

Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Thursday 19 November 2015	Private Room 38, Radisson Blu Edwardian Heathrow Hotel, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW	Start 2.00pm (seating available from 1.30pm)	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing Dealing with compulsory acquisition matters, including representations by the London Borough of Hillingdon, Slough Allotment Federation and other interested parties.

If you wish to participate in or observe the compulsory acquisition hearing, please let the Case Manager (Mr Richard Price) know by emailing M4Junction3to12@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 9 November 2015** indicating your wish to attend and the topics in respect of which you wish to speak.

An agenda for the compulsory acquisition hearing will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing.

The time allocated for the hearing has been estimated based on the matters identified for consideration. Should it take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to. Equally, if there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at the hearing, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day, or adjourn the hearing and continue at a subsequent sitting.

Open floor hearing

Please be advised that the ExA will hold hearings under Section 93 of the PA2008 on the following dates:

Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Monday 16 November 2015	Kings Room, Wycliffe Baptist Church, 233 Kings Road, Reading, West Berkshire, RG1 4LS	Start 7.00pm (seating available from 6.30pm)	Open Floor Hearing 1 Any interested party may give oral evidence based on the content of their relevant and / or written representation, the extent and timing of which will be governed by the needs of the examination.
Thursday 19 November 2015	Private Room 38, Radisson Blu Edwardian Heathrow Hotel, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW	Start 7.00pm (seating available from 6.30pm)	Open Floor Hearing 2 Any interested party may give oral evidence based on the content of their relevant and / or written representation, the extent and timing of which will be governed by the needs of the examination.
Friday 20 November 2015	Room Berkshire 1 and 2, Holiday Inn Maidenhead / Windsor, Manor Lane, Maidenhead, West Berkshire, SL6 2RA	Start 10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Open Floor Hearing 3 Any interested party may give oral evidence based on the content of their relevant and / or written representation, the extent and timing of which will be governed by the needs of the examination.

Daytime and evening sessions have been scheduled to provide opportunities for persons with working or other commitments to attend at a convenient time. Note that each participant will be provided with one opportunity to speak at the session of their choice. **The ExA will not wish to hear submissions from groups or individuals repeated at different sessions.**

If you wish to participate in or observe any of the open floor hearings, please let the Case Manager (Mr Richard Price) know by emailing M4Junction3to12@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 9 November 2015** indicating your wish to attend and the topics in respect of which you wish to speak.

Each interested party should assume that they will be allowed a maximum speaking time of 10 minutes in total for all submissions that they wish to make in this session. Please note that in the event that there are an exceptional number of potential submissions, it may be necessary to be more restrictive.

If the ExA decide that it is necessary to provide an agenda for this hearing, this will be published on our website approximately one week prior to the hearing.

Dates, times and meeting places for site inspection in the company of interested parties

Site inspection in the company of interested parties

Please be advised that the Examining Authority (ExA) will hold a site inspection in the company of interested parties under Rule 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 on the following dates:

Date	Meeting Place	Time	Notes
Tuesday 10 November 2015	Overflow Car Park for Sol Joel Park, corner of Mays Lane/A329 Reading Road, Earley, RG6 1EY	Start 9.30am (incorporating safety and propriety briefing)	Route covering M4 Junction 12 through Junction 8/9.
Wednesday 11 November 2015	Cranford Park Visitor Centre, Cranford Park, Park Lane, Cranford, London, TW5 9RZ	Start 9.30am (incorporating safety and propriety briefing)	Route covering M4 Junction 6 through Junctions 3.
Thursday 12 November 2015	Dorney Village Hall, Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 0DY	Start 9.30am (incorporating safety and propriety briefing)	Route covering M4 Junction 8/9 through Junction 6.

Capacity on the minibus that will be used for the accompanied site inspection will be **very limited**. Priority attendance will therefore be afforded to the Planning Inspectorate, the applicant, local authorities and relevant statutory consultees.

Details of the final itinerary will be published on our website on **26 October 2015**. Upon publication of the itinerary, which will include approximate timings, you may decide that you wish to join the inspection at a specific stage. If this is the case you should make your intentions known to Mr Price as soon as practicable after the itinerary is published. Where requests have already been received for the site inspection to meet certain interested parties at specific locations on the route these will, where practicable, be included in the final itinerary. Interested parties who intend to meet the Examining Authority at a specific location should pay close attention to the approximate timings included in the final itinerary. The schedule for each of the three days scheduled for the inspection is extremely tight, and the ExA will therefore be unable to wait at locations for any interested parties who are late.

If you feel that your attendance for the duration of the accompanied site inspection is vital,

it will be important for you to inform us of your desire to attend **no later than 2 November 2015**. Again, any special needs you may have should be made clear.

Attendees are requested to arrive at the meeting places by 9.30am to receive a compulsory safety briefing and introductory remarks from the Planning Inspectorate. The inspection will commence as soon as possible after these statements have been made.

The inspection may include some walking on uneven or wet ground. The Planning Inspectorate therefore urges attendees to wear appropriate clothing for the weather and sturdy footwear.

Please be reminded that the site inspection is for the benefit of the ExA to look at particular features they wish to see at first hand and is not an opportunity to make any oral representations about the application to the ExA.