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All interested parties and others

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010019

Date: 14 January 2016

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 between 10 and 12 February 2016, and the date, time and meeting place for a site inspection to be held in the company of interested parties on 9 February 2016.

Hearings

The Examining Authority (ExA) has decided to hold further hearings on specific issues. Details of and arrangements for these hearings are set out at **Annex A**.

Agendas for the hearings will be published on the website by 29 January 2016.

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 25 January 2016**. 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.

Accompanied site inspection

The ExA has also decided to undertake a second site inspection in the company of interested parties (ASI). Details of the arrangements for this are set out at **Annex B**.

The itinerary for the second ASI will be published to our website as soon as

practicable, and no later than 20 January 2015.

As was the case for the first ASI held in November 2015, a minibus will be used and capacity will therefore be **very limited**. Priority attendance will be afforded to the Planning Inspectorate, the applicant, local authorities and relevant statutory consultees.

In consideration of the published itinerary, any interested parties who wish to attend the inspection at a specific location should inform the case team of their intention **no later than 25 January 2016**. The onus is on interested parties to pay close attention to the approximate timings provided in the itinerary in order to attend the inspection within an appropriate window at corresponding locations. The schedule for the day will be extremely tight, and the ExA will not be able to wait at locations for interested parties who are late.

ASI attendees should be aware that the site inspection is for the benefit of the ExA to look at particular features they wish to see at first hand. It is not an opportunity to make any oral representations about the application to the ExA.

Please 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 the ExA's decision to cancel them.

Procedural decision

In relation to the notice given by the applicant of the forthcoming hearings to be held between 10 and 12 February 2016, the ExA has 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 22 January 2016.

Rule 13(6) states that unless the ExA 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 22 January 2016 the applicant provides 19 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 decision 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
Lead member of the Examining Authority

Annexes

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

Annex B - Date, time and meeting place 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
Wednesday 10 February 2016	Room Berkshire 1 and 2, Holiday Inn Maidenhead / Windsor, Manor Lane, Maidenhead, West Berkshire, SL6 2RA	Start 10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Issue Specific Hearing 1 Issue specific hearing dealing with matters relating to the environment . Likely topics to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic forecasting. - Air quality. - Water environment. - Noise. - Visual impact.
Thursday 11 February 2016	Room Berkshire 1 and 2, Holiday Inn Maidenhead / Windsor, Manor Lane, Maidenhead, West Berkshire, SL6 2RA	Start 10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (continued) Issue specific hearing dealing with matters relating to the environment . Likely topics to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic forecasting. - Air quality. - Water environment. - Noise. - Visual impact.
Friday 12 February 2016	Room Berkshire 1 and 2, Holiday Inn Maidenhead / Windsor, Manor Lane, Maidenhead, West Berkshire, SL6 2RA	Start 10.00am (seating available from 9.30am)	Issue Specific Hearing 2 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 10, 11 and 12 February 2016, please let the Case Manager (Richard Price) know by emailing M4Junction3to12@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 25 January 2016** 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
Friday 12 February 2016	Room Berkshire 1 and 2, Holiday Inn Maidenhead / Windsor, Manor Lane, Maidenhead, West Berkshire, SL6 2RA	Start 12.00 noon	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (if required) Dealing with compulsory acquisition matters.

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 25 January 2016** 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.

Date, time and meeting place 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 9 February 2016	Holiday Inn Maidenhead / Windsor (car park), Manor Lane, Maidenhead, West Berkshire, SL6 2RA	Start 9.30am (incorporating safety and propriety briefing)	For ExA to observe locations relevant to applicant's Enhanced Noise Mitigation Study REP5-002 and locations residual to November 2015 inspection.

The itinerary for the second ASI will be published to our website as soon as practicable, and no later than 20 January 2015.

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.

In consideration of the published itinerary, any interested parties who wish to meet the inspection at a specific location should inform the case team of their intention **no later than 25 January 2016**. The onus is on interested parties to pay close attention to the approximate timings provided in the itinerary in order to meet the inspection within an appropriate window at corresponding locations. The schedule for the day will be extremely tight, and the ExA will be unable to wait at locations for interested parties who are late.

Attendees are requested to arrive at the meeting places by 9.15am 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.