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Sent: 22 October 2015 16:35
To: Richard Price
Subject: M4 Smart Motorway/Supplementary

Richard

As an interested party I would like to draw the attention of the Inspector to a matter which I believe is germane to her deliberations and which has only just come to my attention. My apologies for a late supplementary submission in the form of this email.

I am aware that the duration and length of road works on Motorways has become an issue nationally particularly following extensive and long duration works on the M1 similar in many ways to those proposed for the M4. So much so that the Secretary of State for Transport indicated recently (media reports dated 21/9/15 and subsequently) that the government was minded to instruct Highways England(HE) to limit works to 2miles max or 5 miles in very exceptional circumstances.

Whether this will or will not become a national standard remains to be seen but I believe that the Inspector may wish to ask HE how this very desirable outcome for all users is to be accommodated within the M4 scheme which as I recall is some 50 km in length and with a proposed construction period of some 5 years. I believe that it may also be appropriate to ask questions about the proposed duration which appears an outrageously long period of time to impose restrictive traffic management measures on a key strategic route which is already very heavily congested.

I have already commented in my main submission that the additional congestion caused by traffic management for the length and duration of the proposed scheme will inevitably have an adverse impact on the scheme business case and on the traffic generation forecasts for this construction period both of which are relied upon by HE.

I recently suggested that the Inspector may care to make a site visit to Lower Earley to judge motorway noise for herself and of course would be delighted to accompany her. Is there any news on this?

Dave Green

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