

SOUTH EAST WATER

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND'S RESPONSE

1. *I am emailing in relation to the Agenda (published by the Planning Inspectorate Friday 29th January) for the 'Issue specific hearing dealing with matters relating to the environment' to be held on 10th and 11th February and Question 2.v. posed to South East Water in Section F Water Environment:*

'South East Water stated that it would provide comment whether they are satisfied that the scheme had considered potential risks to groundwater and mitigation on receipt of the Hydrological Risk Assessment (HRA).

v. As this has now been issued to SEW can it confirm if it is now satisfied with the position in the HRA? If not, please identify outstanding issues. Can the applicant and SEW give an update on their SoCG?'

2. *In response to this question South East Water would like to update the Planning Inspectorate with our dialogue with Highways England to date.*
3. *South East Water have aired their concerns with regard to the impact the proposals could have on some of our water resources that we rely on to supply drinking water, due the location of the M4 Smart Motorway Scheme proposals within Groundwater Source Protection Zones associated with both our Beenhams Heath and Bray Gravels Sites, and requested a Hydrogeological Risk Assessment in two letters sent through to Highways England:*
 - *18th December 2014 (prior to the start of the Examination Phase on 3rd September 2015)*
 - *22nd September 2015 (post start of Examination Phase on 3rd September 2015)*
4. *Highways England sent through the main body of a Hydrological Risk Assessment to South East Water 7th January 2016, with the full document along with supporting figures sent through to South East Water 14th January 2016 (The document reference for the Hydrological Risk Assessment is: 514451-MUH-00-ZZ-RP-GE-400157).*
5. *South East Water reviewed and responded to the Hydrological Risk Assessment within a letter sent to Highways England 28th January 2016. South East Water request that the Planning Inspectorate refer to this letter to determine South East Water's current position with regard to the HRA and outstanding issues.*
6. *I spoke to Emma Harling Philips of DLA Piper on behalf of Highways England this afternoon and we discussed the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG). Following this discussion it was decided by both*

parties that a SoCG was not required as South East Water and Highways England are looking to resolve South East Water's outstanding issues/concerns between themselves during this Examination Phase.

7. *South East Water have scheduled a meeting with the technical team from CH2M Hill who prepared the Hydrological Risk Assessment for Highways England for the 23rd February at South East Water's head office in Snodland, Kent (the Environment Agency have also been informed that this meeting is taking place and may attend). The aim of the meeting will be to discuss South East Water's outstanding concerns and the areas of the Hydrological Risk that will require amendments/further work in order to satisfy these concerns.*
8. *South East Water anticipate that the outcome of this meeting will be a list of key actions and revisions to the HRA for CH2M Hill and a revised HRA which both South East Water and the Environment Agency will subsequently need to review. South East Water will issue a meeting note to both the Planning Inspectorate and Highways England following this meeting outlining our position with regard to the HRA to ensure that the Planning Inspectorate are kept updated with the dialogue between South East Water and Highways England within this Examination Phase.*
9. *Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries at this stage.*

Highways England Response

- 9.1 The issues raised in this response by South East Water were the subject of the meeting between Highways England and South East Water was held on 23 February 2016. As a result of the meeting, Highways England and South East Water have agreed to provide a Statement of Common Ground to the Examining Authority before the close of the Examination. Although the Statement of Common Ground has not yet been signed by both parties, there are, at present, no matters not agreed in the Statement of Common Ground
- 9.2 Highways England confirms that it believes that all the matters raised in this response have been addressed through protective provisions within the draft Development Consent Order ("DCO") and additional commitments included in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ("CEMP") to be submitted at Deadline VIII.