

JEANNINE COOPER

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND'S RESPONSE

1. *Despite the very helpful accompanied inspection visit here in The Myrke on November 12th last year, and the many assurances we received in answer to our concerns regarding noise levels in particular, I am surprised and very concerned indeed that your plan for the proposed measures in the vicinity of The Myrke (page 12) do not show that any changes will be made here. There is no indication of the requested acoustic barrier, and indeed it would appear from the notes on the plan that there is to be no change at all to the existing barrier not even the height!*
2. *In addition there have been residents requests for the solid noise fencing to be completed around the whole curvature of the M4 around the Myrke, which until now has been sadly lacking, and which will be needed more than ever once the new M4 is completed. The existing noise protection fence at the northern end of the Myrke is already not adequate as a general barrier against motorway noise in The Myrke. We need all the noise protection possible here, and I ask you and your team comply with my request for this very serious matter to be looked at once again.*

Highways England Response

- 2.1 Highways England acknowledges the comments made by Ms Cooper, but believes that all matters raised have been addressed in previous responses by Highways England to the Examination.
- 2.2 However, as a point of accuracy, Ms Cooper is incorrect in stating that there are no changes proposed for this area.
- 2.3 The Environmental Statement includes:
 - i. The provision of a low noise surface along the complete extent of the Scheme as detailed in paragraph 12.2.49 (Application Document Reference 6-1, APP-152); and
 - ii. The provision of 150m of new 2.5m barrier as detailed in paragraph 12.10.11(d) (APP-152) and shown on drawing 12.2 Sheet 12, (Application Document Reference 6-2, APP-259).
- 2.4 In addition, The Myrke was considered as part of the enhanced noise mitigation study ("ENMS") as area "EM26" issued at deadline VII. The outcome of the assessment was that the proposed new 2.5m barrier was extended for a further 95m westwards. The final extent of the proposed new barrier at The Myrke is shown on sheet 12 of drawing 2 of the ENMS report.
- 2.5 With this mitigation in place, there will be minor / moderate noise decreases in the noise level to the most exposed parts of The Myrke as a result of the implementation of the Scheme (as detailed on Sheet 12 of Drawing 3 of the ENMS report).