

JAN HEARD ON BEHALF OF MID AND WEST BERKSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND'S RESPONSE

1. *On Weds 10th Feb I appeared at the hearing to represent the M&WB LAF. A reference was given to me by Highways England where it was said I would find responses to my previous submissions, but this reference did not relate to anything that could be found by Kate Mignano of the Inspectorate, who I telephoned for help. Ms Mignano was very helpful and eventually found HE's responses in a huge zip file which my personal computer failed to open so I therefore did not have access to these comments ahead of the Hearing, and there is no way that I could have been aware of them.*

Highways England Response

- 1.1 Highways England does not agree that the documents were inaccessible and notes that other parties were able to successfully navigate the Examination Library hosted on the Planning Inspectorate's website. The document references provided in the hearing were REP4-020 (related to Jan Heard's written representation) and REP5-003 (responses to Deadline IV representations). Highways England has checked the links on the Examination Library which are correct and allow access to both of the relevant documents.
2. *The 23rd Feb is the next meeting of the Forum, and there maybe further comments to forward after this meeting, now that I have been able to see the response.*

Highways England Response

- 2.1 Highways England has no comment.
3. *Had I been in a position to present my comments to the Inspector last weds the following paragraph is what I had intended to say;*

At the previous Hearing for proposed work on a section of the M4 to the west of this site advice initially rejected by the Inspector as irrelevant to that Hearing was actually instigated when it transpired that a bridge through at the planning stage to not require replacement was actually in need of change. An up-grade from footpath to bridleway was implemented allowing local riders and cyclists access to nearby areas previously denied them by the existence of the motorway. Should a similar situation arise during the construction of the Smartmotorway we ask that LAF advice be actioned where possible to include consideration of upgrading bridges plus additional screening of byways should unforeseen changes to the plans be required.

Highways England Response

- 3.1 The details of those structures requiring replacement or modification as part of the Scheme are provided in the draft Development Consent Order documents. Upgrades to any bridges would be outwith the Scheme.