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Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010020

Date: 31 January 2018

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Dear Sir/ Madam

## **The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended)**

### **Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A19/A184 Testo's Junction Improvement project**

#### **Examining Authority's notification of hearings**

Further to the Procedural Decision and timetable enclosed with my Rule 8 letter of 22 November 2017, I am writing to confirm arrangements for hearings in February and March 2018 and to notify you of the date, time and location for hearings that will proceed.

#### **1. Notification of the dates, times and location of hearings**

Interested Parties who wish to speak at one or more of the forthcoming hearings, but did not notify the Planning Inspectorate by Deadline 1 on 28 November 2017, should notify Emré Williams (Case Manager) using the contact details at the head of this letter by **12 noon, Friday 23 February 2018**.

It would greatly assist in the organisation of the hearings if you inform us if you plan to attend all the hearings or a specific hearing, even if you do not wish to speak. It would also assist us if you could notify us of any special needs you may have (e.g. disabled access, hearing loop etc). You must ensure that your Interested Party (IP) reference number is included in your correspondence.

Arrangements for the hearings that will proceed, including dates, times and locations are set out overleaf.

Date	Hearing	Time	Venue	Access and Parking
Wednesday, 28 February 2018	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4) on any Outstanding Issues	10.00	<b>The Royal Station Hotel</b> Neville Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5DH	Bus routes <u>Neville Street</u> Stand A: 10, 11 38 Stand B: 1, 30, 31 National Rail and Metro <u>Central Station</u>  Paid parking close to venue (Newcastle Station Long Stay Car Park, Neville Street, NE1 5DL)
Thursday, 1 March 2018	Issue Specific Hearing (ISH5) into the draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	10.00		

The Examining Authority (ExA) will decide on the topics to be considered at the Issue Specific Hearings (ISH). Agendas for the ISHs will be published on the project's webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website at least seven days in advance. Once hearing agendas are available, if an IP wishes to make an oral representation at an ISH they should inform the Case Team which topics they wish to address at the hearing. Each IP is entitled to make oral representations at the hearing (subject to the ExA's powers of control over the hearings).

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 provides that at hearings it is the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations. Questioning at the hearings will be led by the ExA.

The hearing venue will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. The time allocated for each of the ISHs will be 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 to make additional hearing arrangements.

## 2. Hearing not proceeding

The procedural decision and timetable enclosed with my Rule 8 letter of 22 November 2017 reserved time for a possible Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) on 1 March 2018. I have reviewed the issues relating to Compulsory Acquisition and I have concluded that I do not need to proceed with a hearing on this topic in the reserved time. It follows that a CAH will not be held on 1 March 2018.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case team.

Yours faithfully

*Rynd Smith*

**Rynd Smith**

## Examining Authority

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.