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Mr. David Rowe
Silvertown Tunnel Project Sponsor
Transport for London
Silvertown Tunnel Scheme
Zone, 3Y6, 230 Blackfriars Road
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010021

Date: 12 January 2017

Dear Mr Rowe

Re: Silvertown Tunnel Examination

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides this clarification as requested in your letter of 21 December 2016 relating to matters raised at the ISH focusing on traffic modelling on 7 December 2016. These relate to item 8 of the agenda, specifically the question of the vehicle fleet profile and uncertainties relating to model values and parameter values for and links between traffic models and air quality models as considered during the examination of the M4 Junction 3 to 12 DCO. The Applicant is seeking guidance on the relevance of these matters to the Examination of the Silvertown Tunnel application.

In considering air quality during the ISH, the ExA referred to assumptions about the changing fleet composition, the vehicle fleet and specifically electric vehicle fleets throughout Europe as being of relevance to that discussion. Professor Smyth, for the ExA, identified his interest in the topic by way of his remarks as Inspectors are expected to do where relevant. He was recently appointed to lead a team investigating the take up of low emission vehicles across Europe by the European Commission. The study will be completed in the second half of 2017 and it is anticipated findings from the research will be reported thereafter. No findings have yet been made and matters which are not considered by the Examination will not be relied upon in the conclusions of the panel.

However, the Applicant/its advisers will be aware of potential downward revisions to the projections of the take up of ultra-low emission (including electric) vehicles to 2020 and beyond. Assumptions about future changes in vehicle profile will clearly have an impact on forecasts for emissions locally and thus forecasts for the quality of ambient air¹.

The other issue raised relates to the link between transport models and air quality tools. The ExA noted this had become a subject of debate during the Examination of

¹ http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvaud/184/18405.htm#_idTextAnchor014

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/m4-junctions-3-to-12-smart-motorway/>

the application for the M4 Motorway (Junctions 3 to 12) (Smart Motorway) Development Consent Order. The ExA also indicated it wished to understand the specifics of the models used by TfL and the conversions linking the models, as uncertainty surrounding these matters had been raised by the ExA and other Interested Parties. Professor Smyth indicated he was referring to the M4 DCO examination at the hearing. All the relevant documentation for the M4 Examination is publicly available on the Planning Inspectorate website². The ExA would direct the Applicant's attention to both the Secretary of State's decision letter incorporating his statement of reasons for his decision concerning the scheme, together with the report of the Panel on its Examination. Specifically the ExA would draw attention to the following parts of the Secretary of State's decision letter dated 2 September 2016 (Reference TWA8/1/19):

- Paragraph 13 Traffic and Transport
- Paragraphs 24-27 Air Quality

In addition, the ExA would draw to the attention of the Applicant the Panel's Report dated 3 June 2016 (Reference TR010019). The sections of greatest relevance are those on **Traffic and Transport**, paragraphs PR 5.2.1-93 (in particular PR 5.2.7-8, PR 5.2.17-18, PR 5.2.20-42, PR 5.2.49, PR 5.2.54-55, PR 5.2.66-67 and PR 5.2.85-93), in relation to **Air Quality and Emissions**, paragraphs PR 5.7.47-53, PR 5.7.54-55, PR 5.7.56-66, PR 5.7.67-78, PR 5.7.79-82 and PR 5.7.83-88 and in the case of **Health**, paragraphs PR 5.11.1-22 which the SoS refers to in his decision.

The ExA trusts that this makes clear why the matters discussed during the M4 Examination may be of relevance to the consideration of the Silvertown Tunnel DCO.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Robottom

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Cc: Dr Pauleen Lane, Group Manager National Infrastructure, Planning Inspectorate

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