

Severn Trent Water Limited – submission in relation to M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme

This registration is submitted on behalf of Severn Trent Water Limited (“STW”), a statutory water and sewerage undertaker appointed under the Water Act 1989, with statutory duties to carry out water supply and sewerage functions throughout its appointed area, including the area where the works are proposed to be carried out under the development consent order, if confirmed.

STW owns land and operates assets which are located in close proximity to the proposed works. A number of parcels of land owned by STW are included within the draft Order for permanent or temporary acquisition by Highways England. A number of STW’s assets, which consist principally of two categories, namely (1) public water mains and (2) public sewers, may require diversion or are otherwise affected by the Scheme. Such land and assets are owned and operated pursuant to statutory powers.

It is essential that these assets remain in continuous operation in order to ensure the provision of water supplies to, and the effectual removal of sewage from, household and non-household customers.

Whilst Schedule 10 Part 1 of the draft DCO contains provisions for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers, STW wishes to ensure that it will remain able to deliver its essential public services at all times during the implementation of the Scheme.

Any acquisitions of STW’s land, and any works required to be carried out on STW’s assets, must be planned and performed to avoid risk of supply interruption or contamination, damage to the integrity of the water or sewerage networks, or environmental damage.

Further, it is essential to STW that in the event of any alteration to or relocation of its assets, such work is carried out pursuant to STW’s statutory powers, so as to ensure that both existing and new water supply and sewerage assets unquestionably form part of STW’s statutory undertaking.

STW therefore intends to seek to conclude an agreement with Highways England, incorporating appropriate provisions to enable STW to ensure that delivery of its statutory functions and essential public services are not put at risk.

Pending conclusion of such an agreement, STW wishes to register its interest, in order to afford the opportunity to submit further representations to the Inquiry, if necessary, and to safeguard the ongoing delivery of these essential public services.