



National Infrastructure Planning
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010029

Date: 4 February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13 and Rule 9

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M25 Junction 28 Improvements scheme

Notification of Hearings and issuance of a Procedural Decision

The Examining Authority (ExA) writes to advise you of the Hearings that will be held on the week commencing 1 March 2021.

The ExA is conscious of the continued threat of, and uncertainties around COVID-19 and the latest Government guidance and restrictions. Therefore, these Hearings will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams¹.

Date	Hearing	Time	Venue
Monday 1 March 2021	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH1)	14:00 Arrangements conference starts at 13:30	Virtually via Microsoft Teams
Monday 1 March 2021	Open Floor Hearing (OFH1)	18:30 Arrangements conference starts at 18:00	
Wednesday 3 March 2021	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) – Environmental matters; will include but not be limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic and Transport 	10:00 Arrangements conference starts at 09:30	

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-6-virtual-examination-events/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality • Flooding • People and Communities 		
Thursday 4 March 2021	Continuation of ISH1	10:00	Arrangements conference starts at 09:30
Friday 5 March 2021	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) – Development Consent Order	10:00	Arrangements conference starts at 09:30

Agendas for the Hearings have been published to the project page of the [Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website](#) no later than 5 days before the Hearings.

The actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Reserved Hearing dates

The ExA intends to cover all necessary matters as set out above. However, the notification is also made of reserved dates. These would be used only if the Hearings listed above are disrupted by technical issues and/or run over. Participants for ISH1 or ISH2 should ensure that they are available for all dates listed above and below.

Date	Hearing	Time	Venue
Monday 8 March 2021	Continuation of ISH1 and/or ISH2	14:00 Arrangements conference starts at 13:30	Virtually by Microsoft Teams
Tuesday 9 March 2021	Continuation of ISH1 and/or ISH2	10:00 Arrangements conference starts at 09:30	

Reserved Hearings that are not required may be cancelled in the banner on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website and no other notice is required.

Please confirm your attendance to any of the Hearings set out above by no later than **Deadline 3b - Thursday 25 February 2021**.

Arrangements Conference

Invitees can join the Arrangements Conference using a joining link or telephone number that you will receive in a separate email shortly before the Hearings. This is solely for your use. Please join the Arrangements Conference at the appointed time as set out above and wait until the Case Manager registers you and admits you to the Hearing.

If you do not wish to speak but would like to observe the Hearings in real time, it is the Applicant's intention to arrange a livestream of the Hearings. The link to livestream will be published on the project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website. A full digital recording will be made available on the same webpage as soon as possible after the close of the Hearing.

Procedure at Hearings

The procedure to be followed at Hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010². Any oral representations must be based on either the Relevant Representation or Written Representation made by the person by whom, or on whose behalf, the oral representations are made.

The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

The Examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions, and the ExA must decide whether a Hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important the ExA considers an issue or topic to be.

Procedural Decision

In response to the Applicants direction request, [AS-031](#), the ExA has made a Procedural Decision to direct the Applicant to carry out its duties in accordance with Rule 13(6) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 no later than Friday 12 February 2021.

Please note that in respect of this Procedural Decision, the ExA writes to Interested Parties for information purposes only. This Procedural Decision does not affect the Examination Timetable in any way, and you are not required to respond to it.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Richard Allen

Richard Allen
Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

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