

Tuesday 10th March 2020

To the Examining Authority,

I write again on behalf of 20023052 and 20023053, relating to the Highways England A1 Birtley to Coal House Improvement Scheme (TR010031).

For today's deadline, D3, we would simply like to reiterate our concerns regarding the placement of the gantries and the potential impact on views to the Angel of the North. Our comments relate to the Applicant's responses to the Examining Authorities Written Questions, and the Applicant's responses to Relevant Written Representations.

Comments on the Applicant's responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions, and the Applicant's responses to the Relevant Written Representations:

I am sorry to say that the applicant's responses to the Examiner's First Written Questions, and the Relevant Written Representations have not assuaged our anxieties.

Highways England have submitted the following document in an attempt to outline the visual impact of the gantries on views to the Angel of the North: *A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme Number: TR010031 Applicant's Responses to ExA's First Written Questions – Appendix 1.5.A - Angel of the North Narrative*

[https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010031/TR010031-000811-Appendix%201.5%20A%20-%20Angel%20of%20the%20North%20\(WQ%201.5.11\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010031/TR010031-000811-Appendix%201.5%20A%20-%20Angel%20of%20the%20North%20(WQ%201.5.11).pdf)

I am afraid that we feel that it is still very difficult to judge the impact of the gantries by the visuals provided in this report.

We have made a request for further visual materials through Gateshead Council who have been in direct contact with Highways England.

We are under the impression that a video visualising the scheme as you drive along the A1 is available but have not yet received this.

We feel that this would aid our understanding of the impact of the gantries on views from the A1 to the Angel of the North.

Furthermore, it is extremely difficult to definitively comment on the gantries given that placement is still to be confirmed.

However, we feel that the number of gantries, and in some cases gantries that span the entire width of the road, in the approach to the Angel of the North from the South on the A1 is significant.

We also understand that the design of the footbridge is also still in development and there may be some changes to this.

Again, we would like to reinforce our concerns that the footbridge structure in combination with the gantries may have a detrimental effect on views towards the Angel of the North from the A1 Northbound.

As instructed, we look forward to being in touch again before the 24th March to confirm our attendance at the upcoming hearings.

We would be grateful if you could provisionally note Sir Antony's attendance for the Issue Specific Hearing scheduled for the 1st April, pending our confirmation.

Many thanks,

Ella, on behalf of Antony Gormley Studio and Sir Antony Gormley