

The Planning Inspectorate

By email: [LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

17 May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

We have seen your letter of 25 April 2023 suggesting that, amongst others, Hutchinson Ports (London Thamesport) should have a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with the promoters in respect of the Lower Thames Crossing.

We note your suggestion that if London Thamesport would like an SoCG, it should include:

- Works affecting the River Thames
- River traffic and access to ports and harbours
- Navigational risk and safety.

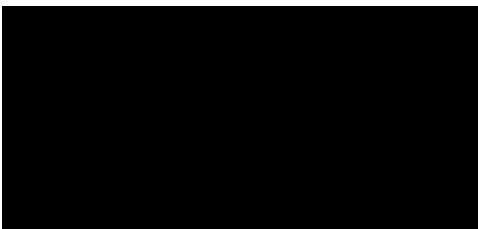
For the record, we are not objecting to the proposal and do not believe that a SoCG is necessary.

We expect that any works in the marine environment will be subject to licensing and planning consents from the appropriate bodies and have no specific comments on work affecting the River Thames.

We would expect access to ports and harbours, both marine and landside, and navigational safety to be maintained at all times but have no concern at the current time that that will not be the case.

We remain very supportive of the Lower Thames Crossing. Increasing road capacity across the River Thames east of London will help ease congestion at what is currently a severe pinch-point on the strategic road network. It will provide a quicker, more reliable connection between the major manufacturing centres and distribution hubs in the Midlands and the North and international gateways in the South. By reducing distribution costs and journey times for exporters it will create new opportunities for businesses from across the UK to collaborate, compete and reach new customers.

Yours faithfully



Paul Davey  
Head of Corporate Affairs