

We wish to register our concern that this examination is going ahead at this time, given the Transport Update Ministerial Statement of 9th March has indicated that construction will be 'rephased' by two years. This raises two particular problems for us:

(1) How can a DCO be determined on the basis of information which, even if it were up-to-date at the time of the Examination, will be out-of-date at the point of execution of the Order?

(2) As many other participants have indicated, if we are to have effective engagement in this examination we will need to invest a significant amount of staff and volunteer time which will divert us considerably from our wider charitable objectives. We face the risk of spending valuable charity resources on a project which, even if it wins Consent, faces climate, political, and economic uncertainties nationally and globally which may well mean it will need to be re-examined prior to commencement.