



The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and any Other Person invited to the Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010032

Date: 12 June 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Sections 88 and 91 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 6 and 9

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Lower Thames Crossing

Matters arising at the Preliminary Meeting and preparation for early Hearings

You were invited to the Preliminary Meeting in relation to the Lower Thames Crossing under cover of a letter dated 25 April 2023 – the [Rule 6 Letter \[PD-013\]](#). The Preliminary Meeting is a meeting being held in two parts to discuss how the Lower Thames Crossing application might be examined. Part 1 was held on Tuesday 6 June 2023 and recorded [video and transcripts](#) from that event are available [EV-008 - EV-011].

Amongst other proposals, the draft timetable in Annex D to the Rule 6 Letter proposed that the Examination would commence on 20 June 2023 and that some hearings would be held early in the Examination period, specifically:

Hearing ¹	Date/time	Venue	Agenda
Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	20 June 2023 at 6pm	MS Teams	<i>To be issued following Procedural Deadline C</i>
Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1)	21 June 2023 at 10am	MS Teams	EV-014
Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2)	22 June 2023 at 10am	MS Teams	EV-015

Some Interested Parties have made a request that the Examining Authority (ExA) should consider starting the examination later than the date provided for in the draft timetable (the ‘rescheduling request’). That request is under consideration but cannot be decided until the ExA has seen written submissions arising from Part 1 of the Preliminary Meeting, due to be submitted at Procedural Deadline C on 13 June 2023.

¹ Continuation(s) of any of the above hearings (if required) will be on 23 June 2023 from 10am.

During the Preliminary Meeting Part 1, the effect of the rescheduling request on other Interested Parties was discussed. Having heard the matters raised, the ExA has decided to publish draft Agendas for the Issue Specific Hearings identified above (ISH1 and ISH2) before its decision on the start date for the Examination. Links to the draft Agendas can be found in the table above or via the Examination Library.

These draft Agendas have been prepared on the basis that if the ExA decides to commence the Examination on 20 June 2023, Interested Parties will have had adequate notice of the business that would proceed in the early Issue Specific Hearings (ISH1 and ISH2). However, the Agendas remain as drafts. If the ExA decides not to commence the Examination on 20 June 2023, then they will be withdrawn and the events they relate to will not proceed.

If it is decided that the Examination will commence on 20 June 2023, an Agenda for Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) will be published following Procedural Deadline C. Interested Parties who have requested to be heard at an Open Floor Hearing should note that agendas for these events do not include any limits on the subject matters for discussion. Any matter that is important and relevant may be raised at an Open Floor Hearing. The Agenda for OFH1 will identify which Interested Parties are being invited to speak and set out times when they will be heard.

The Planning Inspectorate has prepared [Advice Note 8.5](#) to assist those attending hearings of all types and [Advice Note 8.6](#) to support any virtual event participants. Please refer to this advice. If you have any remaining questions about this correspondence, they can be sent to the Case Team on the email address in the letterhead.

Yours faithfully,

Rynd Smith

Rynd Smith
Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority

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