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

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010032

Date: 20 June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89(2)

Procedural Decision Confirming Completion and Closure of the Preliminary Meeting

Further to our letter of 15 June 2023 [[PD-016](#)], this letter advises you that Part 2 of the Preliminary Meeting for the Lower Thames Crossing Application was closed in writing, by way of this written Procedural Decision. No virtual meeting was held. The Examination will commence today, Tuesday 20 June 2023.

A letter prepared under Rule 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (the **Rule 8 Letter**) is in preparation. It will be sent to all Interested Parties as soon as practicable. It will provide access to the full set of Procedural Decisions relating to the conduct of the Examination and a confirmed Examination Timetable.

However, the Examination Timetable in Annex D of the Rule 6 Letter of 25 April 2023 [[PD-013](#)] provides for early hearings to be held before the Rule 8 Letter can be published and despatched. These events will all proceed [[PD-016](#)].

26. Procedural Decision Confirming Completion and Closure of the Preliminary Meeting ¹

The ExA has conducted a written process to conclude and close the Preliminary Meeting Part 2 on 20 June 2023, as provided for in its Procedural Decision 25 of 15 June 2023 [[PD-018](#)]. All matters relevant to procedural decision-making arising at the Programming Meeting held on 16 May 2023, at Part 1 of the Preliminary Meeting held on 6 June 2023 and raised in published written submissions made at Procedural Deadlines A, B and C (PDA, PDB and PDC) were fully considered by the Examining Authority (ExA). No new or unanticipated matters arose that require to be drawn to the attention of IPs. Procedural

¹ All Procedural Decisions made by the ExA for the Lower Thames Crossing examination can be found in the Procedural Decisions Log [[PD-007](#)] and are numbered sequentially.

Decisions arising from these matters were taken by the ExA, and the Preliminary Meeting was formally closed.

The Examination has commenced. The Examination Timetable in Annex D of the Rule 6 Letter of 25 April 2023 [\[PD-013\]](#) is in force unaltered up to item 13 and will remain so until replaced by a confirmed Examination Timetable in the Rule 8 Letter.

For advice about participation in any early Examination events until the publication and despatch of the Rule 8 Letter, please refer to the Rule 6 Letter [\[PD-013\]](#), to the Examination Timetable at Annex D, to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) v2 [\[PD-014\]](#) and to PINS [Advice Note 8.5](#) to assist those attending hearings and [Advice Note 8.6](#) to support virtual event participants.

If you have any questions on the content of this letter, please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Rynd Smith

Rynd Smith
Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority

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