

TR10032 -004519 " ISH-8 " Construction Compound Impacts

As well as the negative visual impact of Construction Compounds, particularly the larger ones, I have huge concerns as regards excessive noise and vibrations, and also the emissions of particulate matter, which I find it hard to believe can be accurately estimated.

Is there a full up to date schedule of expected working hours for particular Compound Sites and Construction Areas available for reference?

Living in close proximity to what will be the Stifford Clays Road East Compound, but not wishing to move away permanently from the lovely house which has been our home since February 1987 and owned by my family since 1966, we have made enquiries in the past as to having the option to move into temporary accommodation if the workings cause undue disruption and stress to our daily life. We have been assured that (Highways England) National Highways would facilitate this with no problem, but having read the Transcript for ISH-8, I am doubtful that this would easily be the case.

The following excerpts from the Transcript make it seem very confusing and there is no guide as to exactly what would be the criteria. I understand that Ms Tafur will provide written details of available schemes and the relevant criteria to the ExA, which I presume will be available to look at on the Planning Inspectorate website. Clarity on this matter would certainly be much appreciated.

Pages 42/43/44 - ISH8 " Transcript excerpts re Temporary Rehousing

MR TAYLOR: Yeah. Ms Tafur, you may have answered this, and I just may have missed it. I wasn't making notes. So the noise insulation or potentially rehousing " can I just clarify how the National Highways policy of that is actually secured? I may have missed what you said. I'm sorry if I did.

MS TAFUR: Isabella Tafur for the applicant. It's a policy that exists generally across National Highways' schemes, so it's not secured specifically as a commitment in this project, but it's available on all highway schemes, and it's the noise insulation, regulations and temporary rehousing policy. You'll appreciate that National Highways operate a number of policies. A number of different ones are published. There's "your property and our road' proposals, discretionary purchase, "your property and compulsory acquisition,' "your property and blight,' and there are a number of these published policies operated and adhered to by National Highways, which aren't specific to particular schemes but are available to affected persons who meet certain criteria

MR TAYLOR: You may not be able to answer this immediately so it may have to followed in writing, but just how " are they binding, or could there be a scenario where they weren't implemented, even though that might be the general intention, that they're implemented?

MS TAFUR: Isabella Tafur for the applicant. I will come back to you with chapter and verse on that, but generally speaking, National Highways has a number of established policies with which it complies, so it's equally " in the case of blight, for example, it has a number of established policies. It has criteria. People submit a blight notice. That's accepted if the criteria are met. So it's that same sort of scheme. National Highways operates and adheres to it.

MR PRATT: National Highways. I was about to call you Highways England for a minute. Sorry about that. I presume that there is standard methodology that people have access

to, to actually get any of their concerns onto these particular " whether it's a blight notice, or whatever the standard methods " that's open to all the residents, or whoever in the area. There are standard methods to get access to those measures.

MS TAFUR: Isabella Tafur for the applicant. There are published documents which set out the criteria and the way in which to apply and it sets out eligibility criteria. So I think, in respect of this particular scheme, their contractors " contractors on behalf of National Highways then carry out noise assessments closer to the time when further detail is known, and they identify properties that may be eligible and they are then contacted, and eligibility criteria are reviewed and options are available for temporary rehousing " funding for temporary rehousing or noise insulation.

MR PRATT: That's fine. I just wondered whether those are a difficult process or something that people could instigate themselves.

MS TAFUR: Sir, we will address you in writing on the schemes that are available " the suite of schemes that are available and operated by National Highways and the way in which applications can be made and the relevant criteria.

The enormity of this Â£9+ Billion project, albeit only 14.5 miles in length is frightening, and the numerous Construction Compounds required to carry out the works over a 6 year period will cause widespread disruption and chaos.

The LTC will not solve the issues at the Dartford River Crossing, but will destroy vast areas of prime agricultural land and green belt, wildlife habitats and create wider areas of congestion on local road networks. It is definitely not value for money.