



Mr Bartkowiak (Case Manager)
The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Sent by email to: LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

9th December, 2024

Dear Mr Bartkowiak,

Lower Thames Crossing – issues with responding to 28 November consultation

In response to the Secretary of State’s eighth [consultation letter](#) of 28 November 2024, and the publication of the Applicant’s nine responses, TAN does not consider it fair or proportionate to give Interested Parties (IPs) less than 11 working days to respond.

The consultation letter and the Applicant’s nine submissions cover significant contested issues, including the disruption caused by construction, the carbon impact of the scheme, and the lack of provision for public transport and active travel.

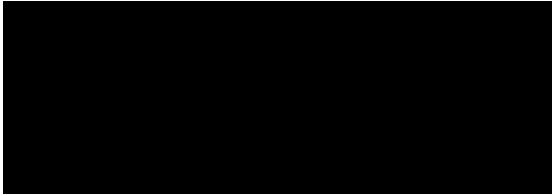
Any responses submitted by 12 December would have been rushed to meet the short deadline. TAN wishes to respond in detail and consider the Applicant’s submissions properly in order to fully inform the decision making process.

There is a real risk that such a short consultation period will breach the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. Article 6.3 requires “*public participation procedures [to] include reasonable time-frames...for the public to prepare and participate effectively during the environmental decision-making*”.

We suggest that in future IPs should be given a minimum of 20 working days to respond to post-examination consultations, especially if IPs are expected to respond to lengthy documents. In addition, all new evidence submitted to the Secretary of State should be published.

We will attempt to submit our response by Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Todd
Director
Transport Action Network

cc DfT - transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk